Palacios-Apatang first one to reserve date to file candidacy. PAGE 2
CHCC updates visiting guidelines. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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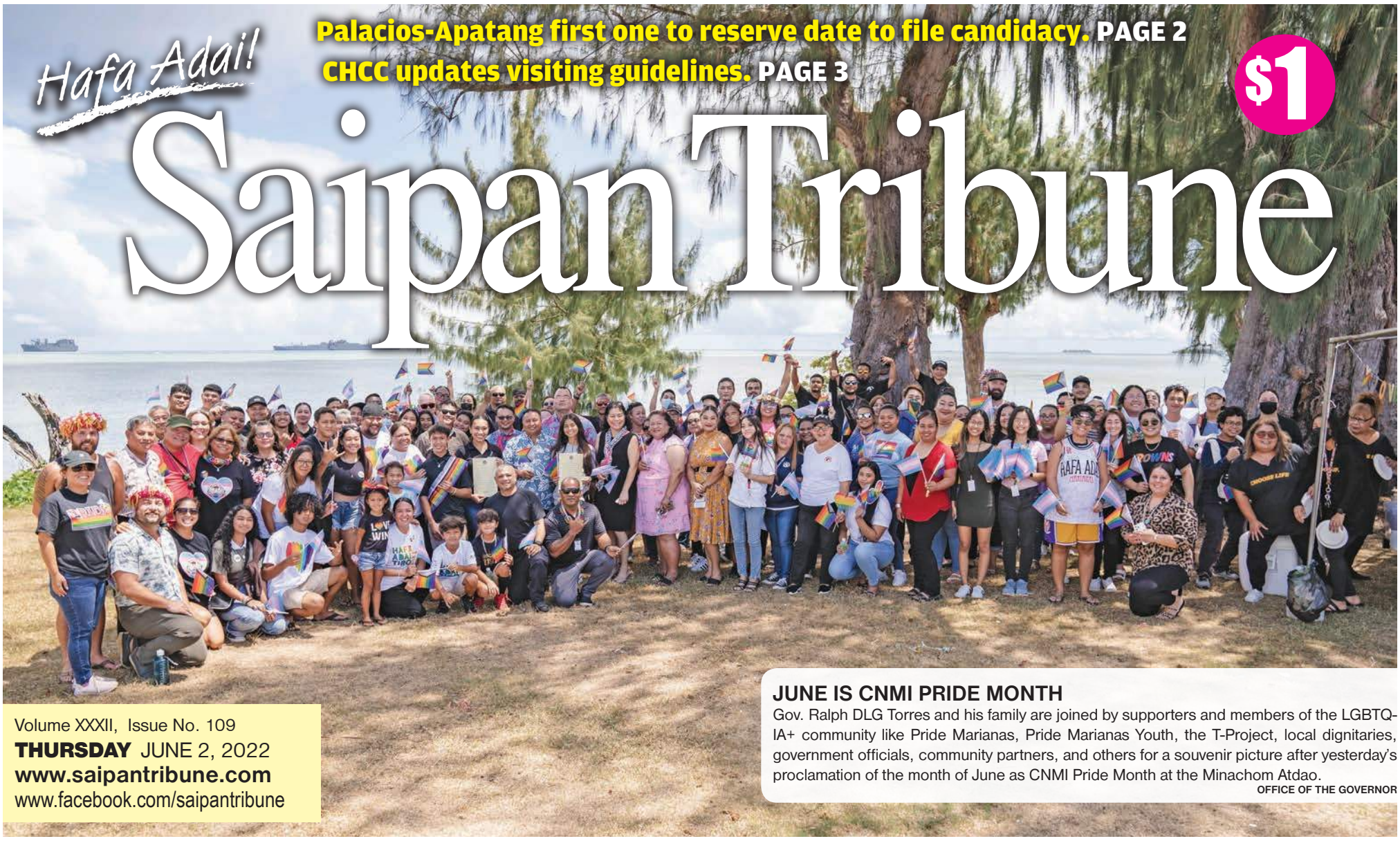

**JUNE IS CNMI PRIDE MONTH**
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his family are joined by supporters and members of the LGBTQIA+ community like Pride Marianas, Pride Marianas Youth, the T-Project, local dignitaries, government officials, community partners, and others for a souvenir picture after yesterday's proclamation of the month of June as CNMI Pride Month at the Minachom Atdao.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 109
**THURSDAY** JUNE 2, 2022
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# New airline gets a name

Marianas Southern Airways. That will be the name of the CNMI's newest interisland airline.

The unveiling of the airline's name came following approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation, according to co-founder Keith Stewart.

Stewart said the DOT approval completes the last of the formalities that the airline needed to achieve to be able to commence operations in July.

"Our first new aircraft, the *Spirit of Saipan*, left Italy today on its ferry flight to the [U.S.] mainland, where it will be painted in the airline's livery before arriving in Saipan next month" said Stewart, adding that "the second aircraft will follow shortly behind."

Additional aircraft will join the fleet over the next six months, according to Stewart, as the airline increases its services.

"Marianas Southern Airways has commenced recruit-

See NEW on Page 4

Photo shows artist's rendition of Marianas Southern Airways' first airline, the *Spirit of Saipan.*
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY**

**LEGEND:**
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

*Source: Office of the Governor*

## Suit seeks to resume cockfighting in NMI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Salas

A former CNMI representative has filed a complaint against the United States and is seeking relief in the form of a judgement that would ultimately lift the U.S. law prohibiting cockfighting in the CNMI.

Former representative Andrew Sablan Salas has filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for the NMI against the United States of America over the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, specifically section 12616, which ultimately prohibited cockfighting in the CNMI.

Salas, through his lawyer, Joseph Horey, wants the court to issue a judgment declaring that a specific section of the Agriculture Improvement Act

See SUIT on Page 4

## Tinian Diamond Casino completes final stages

King-Hinds

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Tinian Diamond Casino is currently in the final phases of completion and is tentatively expected to officially open around summertime.

In a brief interview with Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Commonwealth Ports Authority chair-

See TINIAN on Page 4

## INSIDE

**NATION**
Mass shootings happened elsewhere over the Memorial Day weekend in rural and urban areas.
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**ENVIRONMENT**
More than 90% of Great Barrier Reef coral surveyed this year was bleached in the fourth such mass event.
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**LIFE & STYLE**
K-Pop sensation BTS visit the White House to talk about combating the rise in hate crimes.
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# Local

## Palacios, Apatang first one to reserve date to file candidacy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who are as running as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, as independents in the Nov. 8 general elections, will be the first ones to file their candidacy with the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Acting CEC executive director Robin Sablan told Saipan Tribune in an interview yesterday said that the first day of submission for nominating petition and candidacy is July 11, and Aug. 10 is the last day to do so.

The CEC has to certify all nominating petitions by Sept. 23.

**» *Ramon Blas Camacho, who is seeking Saipan mayoral seat, also reserves July 11, the first day of filing candidacy**

**» *July 11 is also last day to establish residency requirements**

Sablan said he reserved July 11 at 9am for Palacios and Apatang to submit their nominating petition and candidacy after they called the office to schedule their filing date.

Sablan said that Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, who is running for mayor of Saipan as an independent candidate, is also scheduled for July 11 at 10am to file his nominating petition and candidacy.

Sablan said they are doing this reservation system to avoid jampacking the CEC office. He said they don't want all the candidates to come in all at once, like what happened last election, where a political party would come in at the same time with their many candidates. Sablan said they had to process each candidate one by one and there was a lot of waiting time and it took them two hours to process all candidates of a party.

Sablan

He said when a candidate who has already reserved a date changes his or her mind, he or she has to call the CEC to inform them to avoid any mix-ups.

"We normally have 10 [person capacity] here [inside CEC office] so we do this so that we don't get jampacked," he said.

Sablan said they expect to receive more calls for reservations next week.

July 11 is also the last day to establish residency requirements.

Sablan said when a U.S. citizen wants to relocate to the CNMI, he or she has to stay at least 120 days in order to register to vote and claim residency.

"So if you come after that [July 11] , it's already less than 120 days. You'll have to wait until the election is done. And this is for people from outside, like they want to come here to work and they also want to register to vote and be a resident," he said.

## June is CNMI Ocean Month; June 8 is CNMI Ocean Day

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres poses with CNMI dignitaries, local government officials, and members of the community after proclaiming the month of June as CNMI Ocean Month and June 8, 2022 as CNMI Ocean Day.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has designated June as CNMI Ocean Month and June 8, 2022, as CNMI Ocean Day to raise awareness in the community of the value and importance of the ocean, not only to the CNMI's livelihoods and economy, but also as a source of recreation and enjoyment.

The proclamation signing was held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan and was attended by many local officials and community members, including Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli D. Cabrera and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero.

The proclamation recognizes that the CNMI is home to abundant marine biodiversity and ecosystems that provide valuable services supporting sustainable livelihoods, coastline protection, tourism opportunities, and cultural and recreational uses. Also, the indigenous people of the CNMI have a deep and cultural connection with the ocean as it is a source of traditional knowledge and practices passed down through the generations.

The total economic value of coral reefs and seagrass in the CNMI is estimated at $114.8 million annually, based on ecosystem services of commercial fishing, non-commercial fishing by residents, tourism and recreation, amenity and property value, research, biodiversity, and coastal protection. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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### COVID UPDATE:

## 0 hospitalizations; 33 new cases

As of May 29, 2022, there were zero individuals hospitalized in the CNMI as a result of COVID-19.

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare News release late Tuesday, there were zero new hospitalizations from May 23 to 29, 2022.

Also, 33 more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,366 cases since March 28, 2020.

Of the 33 cases, five were identified on May 23, 2022; three on May 24, 2022; seven on May 25, 2022; nine on May 26, 2022; eight on May 27, 2022; and one on May 28, 2022.

As of May 31, 2022, a total of 23,336 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 62.5% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 1,719 COVID-19 tests were conducted May 23 – 29, 2022: 571 on May 23; 184 on May 24; 51 on May 25; 390 on May 26; 437 on May 27; 48 on May 28; and 38 on May 29.

Of the total number of cases identified in the CNMI, as of May 29, 2022, there have been 11,314 recoveries, 18 active cases, and 34 COVID-19-related deaths.

The next CHCC report will be around June 6, 2022. ***(PR)***

# CHCC updates visiting guidelines

Effective immediately, the Commonwealth Health Center's visiting hours are from 12pm to 8pm, unless otherwise noted, and a maximum of two visitors are allowed at a time.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said in a news release yesterday that, while the number of COVID-19 cases in the CNMI remains low, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends continued measures to diminish the effects of transmission, hence the restricted visiting hours.

The listed specialty areas have the following visiting hours and guidelines:

■ **Emergency Department:** Visitation remains flexible and at the discretion of the ED provider. One support person may be with the patient during their course of stay.

■ **Intensive Care Unit:** 9am–11am, 12pm–8pm

■ **Neonatal ICU:** 9am–11am, 3pm–7pm. Only parents of the neonate are allowed.

■ **Psychiatric Unit:** 2pm–3pm,7pm–8pm; Only family members or friends as requested by the patient are allowed.

All visitors must use face masks properly, covering both the mouth and nose.

Screenings for symptoms will continue, and visitors/caregivers who report symptoms will be restricted from visiting. Caregivers staying with the patient must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or receive a negative result from a COVID-19 antigen test before entering the units.

CHCC is committed to providing a safe environment for all patient and visitors. ***(PR)***

# DPS Boating Safety rescues scuba diver

The Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety rescued an overdue scuba diver at the Grotto last Tuesday.

According to a DPS release, DPS Central received a call on May 31, 2022, at around 7:41pm, about an overdue scuba diver.

At around 8:36 p.m., the DPS *Impact* rescue boat responded from the Smiling Cove Marina. DPS Boating Safety Searched on the water as DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit searched on land. At about 9:08pm, SARU notified DPS that they spotted something in the water near the Cow Town area. At about 9:07pm, the DPS Impact reported that they had one diver on board, the diver was assessed by SARU personnel. The 61-year-old male diver stated that he was exhausted but refused further medical attention.

According to the diver, they arrived at the Grotto at about 5:3pm and noticed that the gate was open. He and his partner decided to go diving. He wanted to dive toward the cavern but his partner didn't follow. He said he made his way to the point and got stuck in the current. He then tried to swim back toward the cliff line and couldn't get back before the DPS rescue boat found him. ***(PR)***

# Kilili says he respects senators votes in Torres' acquittal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he respects the votes of the Senate to acquit Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of the six Articles of Impeachment brought by the House of Representatives that charged the governor of corruption and neglect of duty.

Sablan

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Monday, Sablan said that, although he disagrees with the Senate, he respects their decision.

"I'm not a member of the local Legislature. That's up to them. I don't agree with it, but I have to respect their work," the delegate said. He did not elaborate.

Last May 19, with three "yes" votes and four "no" votes, the Articles of Impeachment failed to garner the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the nine-member Senate to convict Torres.

Sens. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) and Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) recused from participating in the impeachment trial. Sablan is Torres' running mate in the coming Nov. 8 election, while Quitugua disclosed that Torres' maternal grandfather is his mother's sibling.

With respect to his re-election bid, Sablan said he hopes he will be running unopposed again.

He said the campaign has already started and the election is getting closer, but until now he has not heard of anyone running against him.

Sablan is seeking his eighth term as the CNMI's delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives under the NMI Democratic Party.

Sablan ran as independent in his previous terms, but he has caucused with Democrats in Congress. He ran unopposed in the 2016 and 2020 elections.

## Fee waivers for today's NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in Northern Marianas College's info session today, June 2, 2022, will qualify to have their NMC fall 2022 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Olympio T. Borja Library at the college's As Terlaje campus. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science in education (concentration in early childhood education, elementary education, rehabilitation and human services, or special education), bachelor of science in business management (concentration in accounting or without concentration); associate of arts in business, associate of applied science in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of applied science in hospitality management, associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, pre-engineering, social work, or without emphasis), associate of science in nursing, associate of science in agriculture, associate of science in natural resource management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and associate of science in fire science technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's fall 2022 semester will begin on Aug. 15, 2022. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

## House unanimously approves Health Network Program

The CNMI House of Representatives unanimously approved a bipartisan House bill to establish the Health Network Program as an integrated service of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The Health Network Program connects patients to CHCC's network of providers and assists patients in accessing healthcare services outside of the CNMI that are beyond CHCC's capacity or availability to provide.

Sablan

Introduced by House Health and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan), House Bill 22-77, HS1 sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the Health Network Program, to include facilitating access to care for eligible CNMI patients; maintaining program data and reporting to the legislature and the governor; coordinating medical records; identifying and pursuing opportunities to improve care in the CNMI and reduce the need for patients to travel off-island; operating within appropriated funding levels; and promulgating rules and regulations.

House Bill 22-77, HS1 also provides for the orderly transition of the off-island medical referral services from the Governor's Office to CHCC, and protects CHCC from incurring outstanding debts and liabilities of the former medical referral office. The bill further clarifies that outstanding promissory notes shall remain a receivable of the central government and not the responsibility of CHCC.

"From the beginning of the 22nd legislative term, the Health and Welfare Committee spearheaded the initiative to review and reform the program long known as medical referral, in light of the program's long-standing issues," said Sablan. These issues include chronic underfunding, the lack of an enabling statute that clearly sets forth the legal authority and parameters for services, and difficulties containing costs, minimizing patients' lengths of stay off-island, and coordinating patient care and health records across different providers.

"This legislation was developed over the course of more than a year, in close coordination with CHCC. It reflects recommendations received during an extensive public comment period and multiple public hearings conducted on Saipan, Tinian and Rota," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

## NEW

*From Page 1*

ment for staff to be based on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam," said Bill Giles, vice president, CNMI and Guam. "Our roots are firmly based in the CNMI, and we are excited to be able to offer local employment opportunities on each island."

The airline will announce its initial schedule, launch its website, and open ticket sales in the next two weeks. At launch it will offer over 90 weekly flights serving Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam and, through Southern Airways' interline agreement with United Airlines, provides the ability to make a seamless reservation from Tinian, Rota, or Saipan to anywhere in the United network.

Marianas Southern Airways is a joint venture between Saipan's MP Enterprises and Southern Airways Express, one of America's largest regional airlines.

It will operate the all new Tecnam P2012 Traveler aircraft, known as the world's most advanced twin-engine turbocharged piston aircraft. The nine-seat aircraft features generous luggage allowances to complement its sleek and modern interior design, which includes LED reading lights, over-head air conditioning controls, and ergonomic seats with a USB port, armrest, and cup holder for each passenger. ***(PR)***

## SUIT

*From Page 1*

that effectively banned cockfighting in the CNMI is not applicable to or effective in the Northern Marianas.

Salas was referring to Section 12616 of the AIA, which amended article 7 of the U.S. Code, subsection 2156 (7 U.S.C. § 2156), thereby deleting language that exempted the CNMI and other specific U.S. territories from the prohibition of cockfighting.

Salas, who was a member of the 13th CNMI Legislature, also wants the court to issue an injunction prohibiting the United States and its agents from enforcing section 12616 of the AIA or 7 U.S.C. § 2156 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Cockfighting has been prohibited by state law in all 50 states of the United States and in the District of Columbia since 2008.

Section 12616 of the AIA, which was implemented on Dec. 2019, only impacted Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

"The title and legislative history of Section 12616 of the AIA show that it was enacted for the specific purpose of 'extending [the] prohibition on animal fighting to the territories.' Section 12616 of the AIA went into effect on December 20, 2019. Prior to December 20, 2019, cockfighting in the CNMI was lawful and regulated," he said.

Horey argued that based on the Covenant, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands have the right of local self-government and "will govern themselves with respect to internal affairs in accordance with a constitution of their own adoption."

Because cockfighting is an "internal affair," Horey said the CNMI should be allowed to determine for itself whether to prohibit the sport or not.

"The question of whether a given act of federal legislation is consistent with the aforesaid self-government guarantee is determined by balancing the federal interest to be served by the legislation at issue against the degree of intrusion into the internal affairs of the Northern Mariana Islands. Cockfighting, a traditional local recreational activity having no relation to foreign affairs or defense, is a quintessential 'internal affair' of the Northern Mariana Islands," he said

Horey said his client, who also served as a CNMI Commerce secretary from 2004 to 2006, has been regularly and actively involved in the sport of cockfighting since childhood and wants to resume the sport.

"He has raised hundreds of roosters for cockfighting purposes, and regularly entered such roosters in competitive cockfights in the CNMI for many years prior to 2019. Plaintiff desires and intends to resume raising roosters for cockfighting purposes, and entering such roosters in competitive cockfights in the CNMI. However, if he does so, a credible threat exists that he will be prosecuted for violation of law, particularly 7 U.S.C. § 2156, which provides that '[i]t shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in an animal fighting venture,' to include cockfights," he said.

## TINIAN

*From Page 1*

woman, she said the final inspection to be conducted by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and permitting for the Tinian Diamond Casino's wastewater treatment facility is expected to be completed in two weeks.

"The casino itself is almost done, if not done already. I think what's pending is the issue with the wastewater treatment facility. One of the issues that CPA had with the facility opening was the waste treatment facility situation. But from all accounts, the casino is in the process of completing the permitting requirements and the infrastructure. The waste treatment facility has been built and it's just awaiting final inspection. By all accounts, once that's done, within probably the next two weeks, there's expectations that the facility will open up," she said.

King-Hinds said the completion of the permitting process would set the stage for a grand opening of Tinian's newest casino hotel located on the port of Tinian around the third quarter of this year or summer.

King-Hinds told the media that CPA has been notified that aside from nearly completing the hotel casino, Big Investment Group, the operator of the Tinian Diamond Casino, has also started hiring workers for its ferry operation.

"So the whole area is being leased from CPA. On one side is the actual casino, and then right behind that is a multipurpose building, which is looking like what they're going to open up as their hotel. Recently, we got notice that they also announced that they were hiring folks for the ferry. That was posted on the Tinian Mayor's Office website. So obviously that's good news," she said.

King-Hinds said Tinian is always open to new businesses that would benefit Tinian's economy and provide jobs for residents.

"We're always looking forward to seeing new businesses open. Obviously, that equals to jobs for the people and contribution to the Tinian economy," she said.

Big Investment Group or BIG is leasing CPA property for the Tinian Diamond Casino project, which includes a hotel, a casino, and a ferry terminal.

BIG has renewed its casino license twice and a portion of the latest payment, $254,000, has been appropriated by Tinian Local Law 22-7 for the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Tinian Municipal Council, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Program, and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

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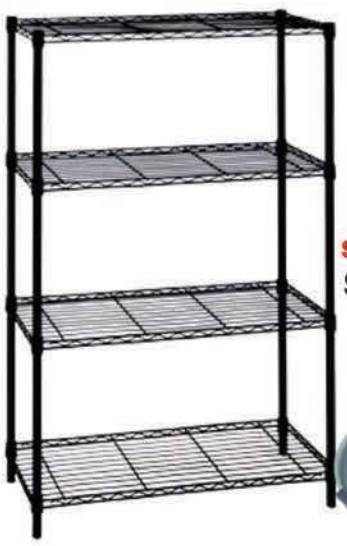

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# Chinese foreign minister's Pacific tour continues in Vanuatu

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Vanuatu on Wednesday for talks as he continued his regional island-hopping tour two days after failing to ink an ambitious deal with 10 South Pacific nations.

While Wang didn't manage to get consensus on the multilateral security and economic plan at a meeting in Fiji after several nations voiced concerns, he has been notching up smaller wins by signing bilateral agreements with many of the countries he's been visiting.

China and the Pacific countries haven't so far made the details of those deals public.

Wang arrived in Vanuatu from Tonga, where he signed a number of deals with Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni on everything from disaster management to a royal tomb improvement project.

His tour comes amid growing international concerns about Beijing's military ambitions and pursuit of natural resources in the region.

Speaking to reporters in Washington, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the U.S. as well as its allies and partners in the Pacific had made clear their concerns about China's "opaque, shadowy deals."

Price said he'd seen reports of regional and international media being blocked or encountering significant obstacles when attempting to cover Wang's tour.

China says that cooperation between Beijing and the island nations has been expanding in a development that's welcomed by those countries and builds on a long tradition of China helping developing nations.

Wang's eight-nation tour continues through Saturday. In addition to Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, Wang has visited the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Samoa. He also plans to visit Papua New Guinea and East Timor.

# Omar sisters graduate with honors

Fariha and Noshin Omar made their home islands proud after recently graduating from different universities in the U.S. mainland.

Fariha Omar graduated from Suffolk University with her Master of Science degree in Medical Dosimetry last May 22. She received her bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) in Radiation Therapy in 2020. She was the Service Learning and Community Partnership Fellow for which she facilitated relationships between community organizations and on-campus students and professors.

Over the 16-month MSMD program, she completed 1,000-plus hours of clinical hours at various hospitals in the Greater Boston Area, creating radiation treatment plans for patients battling cancer. She will be joining the medical dosimetry team at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston later this summer. She will take her board exam soon after to gain certification in the field. Fariha Omar graduated Top 10 from Saipan Southern High School class of 2016.

For her part, Noshin Omar graduated from University of Massachusetts Boston with two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Accounting (summa cum laude) and a Master of Business Administration through an accelerated Master's program on May 27, 2022.

Noshin Omar was this year's recipient of the Dean's Prize for Graduate Service, which "recognizes a graduate student in the College of Management who has shown outstanding academic performance and community service to the college.

Fariha Omar, left, and her sister, Noshin Omar, recently graduated from different universities in the U.S. mainland. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While being a student at UMass Boston, Noshin Omar also worked in the University Advancement department and was involved in alumni and donor relations, and supported fundraising campaigns to raise funds for scholarships and the university food pantry to assist current and future UMass Boston students. She's also served as an academic peer advisor, volunteered as a tax assistant for low-income families under the Quincy Community Actions Program, and was recognized as a business scholar through the Women Beacons of Business organization. Noshin Omar is now a financial analyst in the College of Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston. Her next goal is to pursue her license to become a certified public accountant. She graduated Top 10 from Saipan Southern High School class of 2017.

Fariha and Noshin Omar thank their parents and the rest of their family for finishing their studies.

"We would like to dedicate this to our family, Muhammad Omar Faruk, Shirin Omar, Sarim Omar for all the love and support they've given us to get this far. Thank you and we hope to continue making you proud." ***(PR)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### FBI Special Agent Recruiting Seminar for Women set

Join the Federal Bureau of Investigation virtually for the FBI's Special Agent Recruiting Seminar for Women on June 13, 2022, 9am to 10:30am HST Our Special Agents bring diverse backgrounds and a wealth of skills to the FBI mission, including the mental acuity, physical stamina, and moral compass required to protect the nation. This is a career where initiative and expertise are essential. To register or inquire about this event email HonoluluEvents@fbi.gov. ***(PR)***

### 4.5-magnitude quake near Guam

At 1:47am on May 28, 2022, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 58 kilometers north-northwest of Yigo, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***


## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### INVITATION FOR BIDS
### CUC-IFB-22-016

### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHT AND HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of light and heavy duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

***This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).***

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-016, Supply and Delivery of Light and Heavy Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 23, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

**CHRETIEN T. VOERG**
**Acting Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
### CUC-RAESP-22-027

### A&E Design Services For Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Water System Mitigation Project PH II, PH I.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from FEMA HMGP.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-22-027, A&E Design Services for Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 27, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 6, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**CHRETIEN T. VOERG**
**Acting Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**

ANNOUNCING THE

# 2022 LIBERATION DAY PARADE

## HONORING OUR LEGACY AS WE RIDE THE WAVES OF CHANGE

**Monday, July 4, 2022 10:00 AM**

*Join The Celebration!*

We want you and your group/organization to participate in our parade!

**CONSTRUCT AN ENTRY**
Build a float.
Replicate a village landmark.
Highlight a talent or interest.
Join the parade!

**PLAY IT-PERFORM IT**
Do you play an instrument?
Can you carry a tune?
A dancer, member of a dance group?
Join the parade!

**GOT WHEELS?**
Bicycles, cars, equipment,
trucks, motorcycles?
Join the parade!

**MEMBER OF A GROUP?**
Non-profit, sports team,
marchers, private organization?
Join the parade!

**All are welcome to enter the parade!**
No entry fees to participate!
Float prizes for Competition Floats!

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Place: | $5,000.00 |
| 2nd Place: | $4,000.00 |
| 3rd Place: | $3,000.00 |
| 4th Place: | $2,000.00 |
| 5th Place: | $1,000.00 |
| 6th Place: | $500.00 |

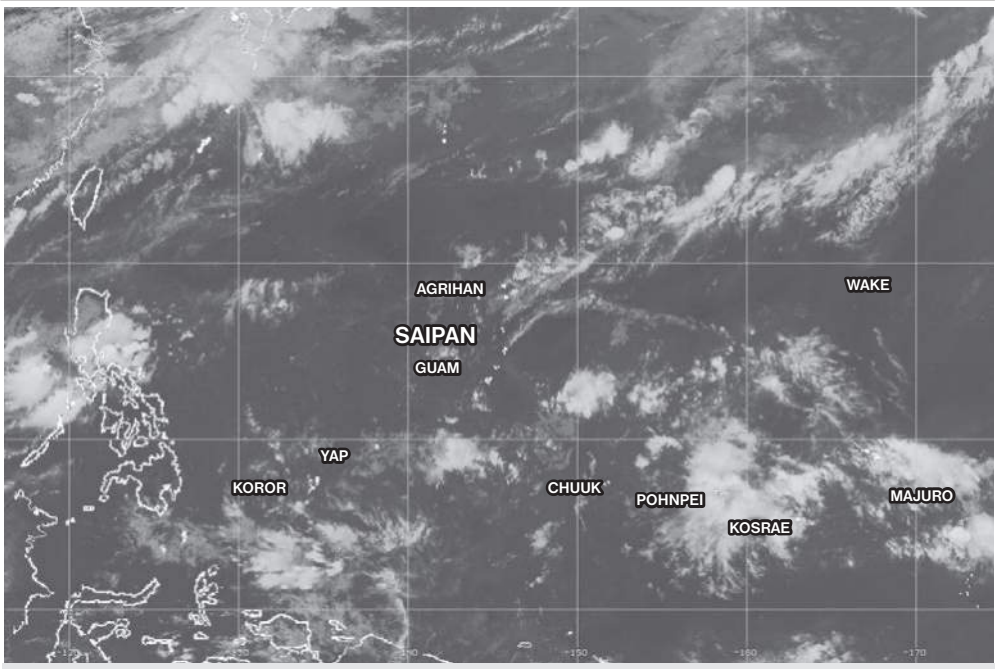
Parade route will begin in front of National Office Supply and conclude just south of the Garapan Public Market.
Applications will be online at saipanmayor.net or available for pick-up at the Saipan Mayor's Office beginning Friday, June 3, 2022.
For parade inquiries, please call (670)234-6208 or email Luise Villagomez at lvillagomez@mos.gov.mp.
Last day to submit applications will be 04:00 PM on Friday, June 24, 2022.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East southeast wind 5 to 7 mph. | Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. Chance of precipitation is 40%. | Mostly cloudy, with Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Chance of precipitation is 40%. | Partly sunny, . | Partly cloudy |
| 87º 78º | 87º 78º | 87º 78º | 87º 78º | 87º 78º |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2022**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle trade winds prevail in the Marianas the next several days, with scattered showers expected today. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are about 3 to 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | 31 / 26 °F |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 29 / 24 °F |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 29 / 24 °F |
| Chuuk | Scattered Thunderstorms | 28 / 26 °F |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 29 / 24 °F |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 29 / 25 °F |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 29 / 26 °F |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 05:45 AM | 18:43 PM |
| Friday | 05:45 AM | 18:44 PM |
| Saturday | 05:45 AM | 18:44 PM |
| Sunday | 05:45 AM | 18:45 PM |
| Monday | 05:45 AM | 18:45 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 07:39 | 21:09 PM | - |
| Friday | 08:30 | 21:57 PM | - |
| Saturday | 09:22 | 22:42 PM | - |
| Sunday | 10:14 | 23:24 PM | - |
| Monday | 11:05 | - | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Thunderstorms | 16 / 13 °F |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 37/ 19 °F |
| Hong Kong | Scattered Thunderstorms | 30 / 27 °F |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 28 / 22 °F |
| London | Partly Cloud | 20 / 11 °F |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Sunny | 27 / 16 °F |
| Manila | Scattered Thunderstorms | 32 / 27 °F |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | 13 / 7 °F |
| Miami | PM Thunderstorms | 29 / 25 °F |
| New York | MPM Showers | 29 / 18 °F |
| Osaka | Sunny | 29 / 18 °F |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 25 / 15 °F |
| Busan | Sunny | 25 / 18 °F |
| Rome | Sunny | 34 / 20 °F |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 32 / 20 °F |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 19 / 13 °F |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 28 / 17 °F |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | 26 / 18 °F |
| Washington, DC | PM Thunderstorms | 31 / 17 °F |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 03:50 AM | Low Tide | 1.45 |
| 08:01 AM | High Tide | 1.82 |
| 3:38 PM | Low Tide | -0.07 |
| 11:09 PM | High Tide | 1.91 |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 6:30PM | 7:15PM | 6 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 6:00AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:05PM | 10:55PM | 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:10PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW9308 | 3:30PM | 7:20PM | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 3:30PM | 7:25PM | 6 |
| RS112 | 3:45PM | 7:30PM | 3, 6 |
| 7C3405 | 3:50PM | 7:45PM | 3 |
| OZ624 | 4:00PM | 7:40PM | 3, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 2:00PM | 5:20PM | 7 |
| 7C3451 | 3:00PM | 6:20PM | 3 |
| BX621 | 3:10PM | 6:30PM | 3, 7 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| UA112 | 4:40PM | 5:30PM | 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR110 | 10:00PM | 4:00AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:15AM+1 | 5 via Palau |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:40AM+1 | 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 8:30AM | 2:10PM | 6 |
| RS111 | 8:45AM | 2:05PM | 3, 6 |
| 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:30PM | 3 |
| TW9307 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ623 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 3, 6 |
| TW9307 | 9:15AM | 2:30PM | 3 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 8:00AM | 1:00PM | 7 |
| BX621 | 8:00AM | 1:10PM | 3, 7 |
| 7C3452 | 9:00AM | 2:00PM | 3 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| LIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | ROTA | GUAM | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | GUAM | ROTA | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Eucon offers rehabilitation program for new mothers

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Eucon Medical Health Services has a new service for mothers who have just given birth.

The Postpartum Rehabilitation Program that Dr. TJ Bellama just started at Eucon a few weeks ago will guide new mothers—specifically those who have just given birth less than a year ago—after the traumatic physical experience of giving birth.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting Tuesday last week at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant, Bellama said the new program is a guided recovery and exercise program for mothers who recently gave birth.

"No program exists in the CNMI to address the unique needs and challenges women face after delivering a child," Bellama said. "There are no pelvic floor physical therapists in the CNMI to address complex cases related to damage during childbirth."

Bellama, who has been with Eucon for over three years now, said that this absence of a postpartum rehabilitation program in the CNMI means that he has "had to treat more musculoskeletal issues related to childbirth than in any other location in the United States."

Bellama took the opportunity "to develop a program and test it and see if this is something that could be provided as a model or a template for low resource or high resource areas across the world."

In line with this, the Rotary presented Bellama with a $2,600 check to help with some of the expenses of the new program.

The objective of the program is to guide the physical recovery of mothers in the CNMI through an evidence-based exercise program, to provide a supportive, communal environment for mothers to focus on their recovery after childbirth, and to establish a sustainable program that does not rely on a specific provider to continue.

The goals that Bellama wishes to accomplish is to initially decrease the prevalence of musculoskeletal pain in mothers after childbirth, to decrease the need for interventions related to organ prolapse in mothers after childbirth, and to decrease the prevalence of stress incontinence in mothers after childbirth.

"This program will consist of trained community members providing weekly exercise programs to mothers who have delivered babies within the last year. Mothers will be referred by the Obstetrics and Gynecology departments at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to the Post-Partum Rehabilitation Program so it becomes a component of the standard postpartum clinical course," Bellama said.

He said the exercise program will be evidence-based and tailored to the specific needs of postpartum mothers. "This model allows for flexibility in delivering the service depending on demand. It allows for the exercise program to be delivered in a culturally sensitive manner, utilizing the more positive outcomes that result when providers and patients have shared experiences and values. It also provides for a sustainable structure that does not rely on a specific healthcare provider to ensure continued operation."

New mothers will learn techniques, learn the areas that they need to focus on, and learn the areas that they're doing well, with the expectation that women don't have to be perfect, that there are many ways to go about recovery, and that everyone is in a unique situation and that any participation is a win.

"We don't make these mothers feel bad about not doing every last little bit of exercise we give them. We want to support them for participating and taking time for themselves…and rebuild themselves to be better for their families, and for their children. And that's what we're really trying to emphasize," Bellama said.

Currently, the program is on Phase 1, the pilot program, which a single cohort of eight to 12 mothers will participate in a weekly exercise program for three months. CNMI-based funding and support will provide training to a single instructor. Child care will be provided on-site, and all the while the program will be assessed and appropriate changes in structure, funding, goals, and expectations will be made.

Phase 1 will be initiated islandwide programs of 10 to 15 mothers based on the findings and changes in Phase 1. The program will be made accessible to every woman who delivers a child each year in the CNMI and accessible to each community in terms of language, culture, cost, and location, and will in the future be funded by a federal grant.

Dr. TJ Bellama stands next to his presentation of the CNMI Postpartum Program Tuesday last week as a guest speaker during the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Giovanni's Restaurant. LEIGH GASES

SAMSUNG
FOR THE ULTRA
Achiever
PRICE DROP
Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra
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Samsung Galaxy Note20 Ultra
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Up to $50 of Shell Gas
Up to 20% Discount on select accessories
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Terms and conditions apply. Contract Required. Promotional offer valid from 6/1/2022 - 6/14/2022 and requires the purchase of a Samsung Note 20 Ultra or Samsung S21 Ultra on a minimum $55 plan. Accessory discount is dependent on type of accessory purchased. Gas Voucher offer valid while supplies last. Residents of Rota & Tinian will receive Ace Hardware Gift Cards while supplies last. Subject to credit check. Visit ite.net for more details.
PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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## EDITORIAL

# Doing nothing is not an option. Another school shooting shows we need action on guns

Silence is not an option.
Offering your thoughts and prayers is not working.
Ignoring the problem is not a viable strategy.
Ignoring guns is not the answer.

Whether it's the Sandy Hook shooter or the slaughter of 19 children and two adults at a Texas elementary school, or even Boise's own shooter at the Boise Towne Square, the common thread is too-easy access to guns. People who have no business possessing guns had easy access to them, and went on rampages that killed innocent people.

While Republican politicians want to talk about everything except guns when this country experiences yet another mass shooting, the rest of us are done listening to the excuses and weak explanations. Pointlessly pontificating about the "breakdown of the family" and wistfully wishing we had better mental health care are merely distractions.

Beware those who want to shut down the gun debate before it even begins by using the unfounded scare tactic, "they're coming to take your guns," or by saying it's too soon to talk about it, or that talking about gun control is "part of an agenda" or "playing politics."

We are not persuaded by the argument that laws aren't going to stop "bad guys" from getting guns, that they'll find a way to get guns regardless.

Imagine applying that logic to other laws.

If someone wants to vote illegally, they're going to find a way to vote illegally. Nothing we can do about it. No law is going to stop it.

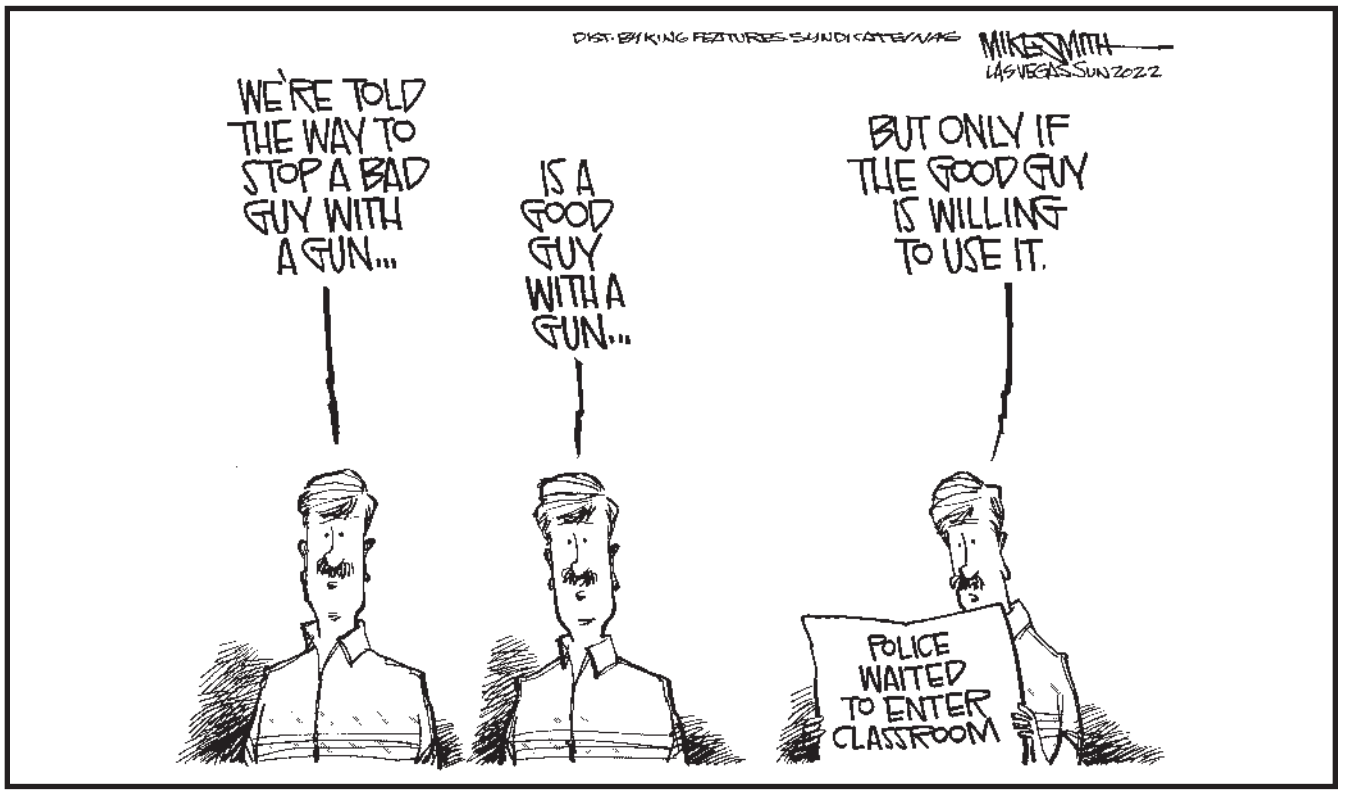
Speed limits? Shall we get rid of drug laws? Abortion laws? What if we made it as difficult to get a gun as Republicans want to make it to get an abortion? What if we made it as difficult to get a gun as it is to get a driver's license in this country?

Nor are we persuaded by the argument that these school shootings would be reduced if we just arm teachers.

Based on all of our other mass shootings, we'd have to arm every grocery store clerk, church pastor, Walmart greeter, mall security guard, rabbi, nightclub bouncer, postal clerk, Republican member of Congress playing baseball, and every high school kid who takes your ticket and sweeps the floors at movie theaters. Is that the America we all want to live in, where everyone is armed to the teeth, ready to start firing at the pop of a balloon?

And if you're really going to pretend to be "pro-life," then perhaps you would want to take action regarding a killing mechanism that takes the lives of innocent children in an instant and in such a brutal manner that it requires parents to submit their DNA for identification purposes because their

*See DOING on Next Page*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WE'RE TOLD THE WAY TO STOP A BAD GUY WITH A GUN...
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BUT ONLY IF THE GOOD GUY IS WILLING TO USE IT.
POLICE WAITED TO ENTER CLASSROOM

# To deter China on Taiwan, Biden needs to reassure

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**
Los Angeles Times

*Doyle McManus is a columnist for the* Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Last week, in an unscripted moment, President Joe Biden warned bluntly that if China invades Taiwan, the United States will come to the island's defense.

"We've made a commitment," Biden told reporters at a news conference in Tokyo.

Including military action?

"Yes," he replied.

That isn't what U.S. policy on Taiwan says—not officially, at least.

The White House and State Department hurriedly tried to walk back the president's words.

"Our policy has not changed," they insisted.

Biden critics called it a gaffe, but the statement wasn't a slip of the tongue. Biden has used the same language about Taiwan three times in nine months. When a president offers his personal version of policy three times in a row, that pretty much makes it official—even if it wasn't issued in a formal communique.

What Biden did was to say openly what has been implicit for several years: The United States is willing to threaten force to deter China from invading Taiwan.

Until now, those hints were couched in a policy known as "strategic ambiguity." The president made it less ambiguous.

China hawks hailed the rhetorical shift as a welcome burst of clarity. Others worried that it might provoke China toward reckless action.

The Chinese reaction was anger.

"If the U.S. continues to go down the wrong path, there will be irretrievable consequences … and the U.S. will have to bear an unbearable price," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin warned.

Why such a storm over the word "commitment"? A bit of history may help.

China considers Taiwan to be part of its national territory, and so, for many years, did the rulers of Taiwan, the U.S.-backed losers of China's civil war who fled to the island when the Communists took power in 1949.

In 1979, when President Jimmy Carter recognized Beijing as the sole legitimate government of China, Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act. It committed the United States to supply weapons to the island's government. However, it did not commit the United States to intervene militarily against a Chinese invasion; that was left ambiguous. The idea was to deter China without directly opposing its aspiration to reabsorb Taiwan.

That balance was relatively easy to maintain when China was weaker.

But over the last two decades, China has strengthened and become an assertive regional power: building military bases in the South China Sea, bullying weaker neighbors like the Philippines and harassing Taiwan's armed forces with air and naval incursions.

Chinese officials have derided the United States as a declining power. After the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan last year, one of Beijing's official newspapers said the lesson for Taiwan was that if war broke out, "the U.S. military won't come to help."

That's when Biden first said publicly that the United States had a commitment to defend Taiwan, much like the U.S. obligation to its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

His intention, then and now, was clear: to make China's President Xi Jinping think long and hard before considering an invasion.

But by announcing the commitment the way he did, he created consternation in his own foreign policy bureaucracy.

"I don't think the confusion is helpful," said Bonnie S. Glaser, director of the Asia Program at the German Marshall Fund.

Glaser supports the goal of deterring China from invading Taiwan but said it isn't clear that Biden's warnings will do that.

"What will deter China, and what will provoke China? It's not clear that we know," she said. "The Chinese believe we are testing their bottom line, seeing if they will respond if we touch on one of their core interests like Taiwan. If they think we are encouraging [Taiwan to declare] independence, they could well be tempted to use force."

It's also not clear whether the United States could defeat a Chinese invasion. China's navy is the largest in the world, although its ships are smaller and less sophisticated than those of the U.S. and its allies. A 2018 study commissioned by Congress warned that the United States "might struggle to win, or perhaps lose, a war against China."

So to make his commitment to Taiwan stick, Biden has work to do. He has already marshaled support from Japan, Australia and other allies. His administration has been prodding Taiwan to upgrade its defenses, taking lessons from Ukraine's success in fending off a larger invader. And Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III is expected to seek more forces in the Pacific.

Paradoxically, though, even as he strengthens deterrence, Biden needs to reassure China that the United States is not covertly encouraging Taiwan to declare independence. That means reaffirming the "One China" policy he mentioned only briefly in his remarks last week and assuring Xi that he means it when he says he doesn't want to change the status quo.

If he can do all that, last week's unscripted statement might one day be remembered as a step toward deterring war in Asia—not the moment when Biden inadvertently provoked one.

# We don't have to live like this. Our children don't have to die like this

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

I've always wondered how vigorously gun-loving Americans would defend assault rifles if they were forced to see up close the damage the weapons inflict on human bodies.

In the aftermath of school shootings, we've become accustomed to certain images: distraught parents clutching terrified children, police officers swarming, photo collages of smiling young faces frozen forever as first-graders or fourth-graders or teenagers.

But what if we had to actually confront the carnage? It would be unbearable.

Did you know, for example, that rounds fired from assault rifles travel at such a high speed they cause a shock wave while passing through a human body? These waves, experts say, result in catastrophic injuries "even in areas remote to the direct bullet wound."

Imagine what Nicole Hockley's first-grader Dylan must have looked like after five bullets tore through his little body at Sandy Hook Elementary School before Christmas in 2012.

And what about the 19 fourth-graders in Uvalde, Texas? Did you wonder why their relatives had to provide DNA samples? The Wall Street Journal reported that their bodies lay in multiple piles in their classroom. Imagine a bloody pile of dead children, with two lifeless teachers slumped over them.

Maybe the national ardor for assault weapons would start to cool if we could actually see the havoc they are wreaking.

Maybe the politicians who pretend they are powerless to prevent the bloodshed would be shamed into action if they had to face the graphic result of their refusal to act.

Maybe Texas Gov. Greg Abbott would not have tweeted three years after 20 schoolchildren in Newtown, Connecticut, were slaughtered that he was "embarrassed" to see Texas behind California in new gun sales. "Let's pick up the pace Texans," he wrote.

We don't have to live like this. Our children don't have to die like this. There is so much we can do.

We must ban assault weapons, or at the very least raise the minimum age to purchase them. We must pass and enforce "red flag laws" to prevent emotionally unstable people from keeping their guns. We must widen background checks.

We must push senators to end the filibuster, which has made any sort of gun law reform unlikely. The moral bankruptcy of politicians on this issue is perfectly symbolized by Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., who said he would do "anything I can" to pass new gun legislation, except the one thing he really can do—vote to end the filibuster.

Lately, I've tried to tune out the gun debate because it's just so sickening to live in a country that fetishizes instruments of death. But this week, in the aftermath of Uvalde, I forced myself to read up on guns because I can no longer look away.

Did you know that workplace shootings are considered rare? According to a National Review article, this "may well indicate that the background-check system is working" because the vast majority of workplace employees are adults, "and if an adult accumulates a criminal record or has a restraining order filed against him, he is barred from purchasing a firearm."

The 18-year-old arrested in the Buffalo mass shooting and the 18-year-old responsible for the deaths in Uvalde weren't old enough to accrue criminal records. But they were able to buy assault rifles the day they turned 18. A federal assault weapons ban would have prevented the deaths of 31 people.

Did you know that a 2019 study found that between 1981 and 2017, mass shooting deaths were 70% less likely to occur while the country's decade-long assault ban was in effect? How many children would still be alive today if the Senate had not refused to ban the sale of assault weapons in 2013?

Did you know that nearly half of mass shooters leak their plans in advance?

Did you know that one- third of American adults say that fear of mass shootings has led them to avoid certain places and events?

■■■

When news broke about the Uvalde shooting, filmmaker Kim Snyder was on her way to Kenya to screen "Us Kids," her documentary about the March for Our Lives movement founded by the student survivors of the 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. She also made "Newtown," an award-winning 2016 documentary about the aftermath of the mass shooting that took the lives of 20 first-graders and six adults.

When I reached her by phone, she told me she'd been crying a lot.

"I'm sitting here in Africa at a dinner party where these Kenyans are politely just so not understanding it," she said. "I have never been more ashamed. This is a human rights issue for the children of America."

When I asked her what she thought about publishing photos of children killed in mass shootings, she reminded me that some of the Sandy Hook parents went to court to stop images of their children from being disseminated online. She supported them. "I know there is this idea of the 'greater good,' " she said, "but we have to protect first and foremost the parents."

In 1955, after 14-year-old Emmett Till was tortured and lynched by white men in Mississippi, his mother insisted on an open casket at his public funeral in Chicago. Mamie Till-Mobley wanted the world to see the horror that had been inflicted on her child. She invited news photographers to take pictures. Fifty-thousand people saw Emmett's mutilated body in person. Some went weak, some fainted, some threw up. But the mother's brave act, awful as it was, helped galvanize the civil rights movement and change the course of history.

# Our gun problem is actually a governance problem

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

*John M. Crisp lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com*

Was there a moment when it dawned on you that the Uvalde massacre of 19 schoolchildren and two teachers is not going to result in any meaningful change in our nation's gun laws?

I suspect that there wasn't. As a nation, we've already accepted the subtext that plays in the background of all mass shootings: These deaths are merely the collateral damage that we incur for maintaining our right to own a firearm.

If the murders of 20 6- and 7-year-olds at Sandy Hook didn't move us to action, why would 19 more deaths of children in Uvalde?

In other words, in the aftermath of the heartbreaking slaughter last week, few expected Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to champion bold new plans to prevent further school shootings.

Still, it was jarring to hear Abbott minimize the death toll in Uvalde by comparing it to the murder rate in Chicago. When you start a sentence with "I hate to say this," it's probably a signal that you shouldn't. But this is a lesson that Abbott hasn't learned:

"I hate to say this, but there are more people who are shot every weekend in Chicago than there are in schools in Texas." This is misleading, at best, and it's cold comfort to the families in Uvalde who lost their children.

Abbott was relying on an oblivious rationale for doing nothing about gun laws. Nevertheless, he conceded that there are things that can be done to prevent school shootings.

Abbott said, "Anybody who shoots somebody else has a mental health challenge. Period." The government, he said, needs to find ways to target this mental health challenge and do something about it.

He pointed out that in a 40-county region around Uvalde, there are no mental health hospitals. He noted a great need for a "physical mental health care facility in this region," as well as "more personnel, more strategies" to deal with the challenges of mental health.

What else can we do? Abbott referred to 2019 legislation regarding "school hardening," measures that "should" make it more difficult for shooters to enter schools. Sen. Ted Cruz said that after the Santa Fe, Texas, school shooting in 2018, parents of some of the eight students killed stressed to him the importance of making schools invincible, even if it requires turning them into armed camps defended by security guards and teachers with guns.

In other words, despite their reluctance to pass laws that will keep high-powered, high-capacity weapons out of the hands of school shooters, our state and national leaders regularly tout measures that they say could stem the bloodshed.

Which leaves us with one question: Why haven't they enacted them?

Republicans have been in charge of Texas since 1994, the last year a Democrat won a statewide election. If Abbott knows that a 40-county area surrounding Uvalde has no mental health care facilities, why aren't Texas Republicans responsible for that failure?

And if school "hardening" is the answer, why haven't schools in Texas been hardened?

Robb Elementary School in Uvalde certainly wasn't hardened, and reporting from the Texas Tribune and elsewhere indicates that the district in Uvalde is more typical than exceptional.

If better mental health care facilities and hardened schools are the Republican answers to school shootings, why don't we have them in Texas, where Republicans have been in charge for three decades?

Some Republicans blame the school districts, suggesting limitations on the powers of the Republican legislature and governor. But the Republicans in charge have not hesitated to impose their will on all Texas schools with regard to the teaching of critical race theory, gender issues and other matters that should be in the hands of educators.

Republicans claim to support better mental health care and hardened schools, but I suspect that they themselves understand these are actually disingenuous dodges that deflect attention from the real issue. In any case, Republicans—who have little faith in government—are just not very good at governing, in Texas or elsewhere. And therefore the carnage continues.

## DOING

*From Page 10*

children have been damaged beyond recognition.

Nothing happened in the wake of the tragedy at Sandy Hook. Or Parkland. What will it take to get everyone's head out of the sand?

It's amazing to us how much power the NRA still holds in this country.

There are steps that can be taken that are not an infringement of the Second Amendment. But gun extremists have kidnapped that amendment and are holding the rest of us hostage.

Republican federal lawmakers need to start considering regulations.

Idaho's delegation, Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, and Reps. Russ Fulcher and Mike Simpson, can lead the way.

Let's face it, their seats are safer than mother's milk. They've won reelection time and time again with ridiculous ease. They could actually be a part of the solution, lead their Republican colleagues in a meaningful discussion about addressing gun violence and mass shootings with common-sense moves.

They could start with HR8, which passed the House in 2019 and establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties.

Unfortunately, Fulcher and Simpson voted against it. It's an opportunity for Crapo and Risch to lead.

History will not be kind to these politicians who spent years in Washington, D.C., and did nothing while innocent Americans were massacred by bad guys with guns.

We are beyond ready for sensible regulations that can help prevent would-be mass murderers from having such easy access to these killing machines. The shooter in Uvalde, Texas, reportedly bought two AR-15s on his 18th birthday. He couldn't rent a car at 18 or buy alcohol, but he could buy rifles no teenager could possibly need. The Boise Towne Square shooter was a convicted felon but could carry in Idaho because of lax gun laws.

Higher age restrictions, mandatory training and licensing, background checks for all sales and "red flag" laws to keep guns out of the hands of people with domestic violence protection orders are all reasonable ideas.

We expect common-sense gun reform laws, Sens. Crapo and Risch, Reps. Fulcher and Simpson.

History will judge you. Don't be on the wrong side of it.

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# Nation

# UNITED STATES
# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
# COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
## Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program

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# CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
# Proposed Amendments to 2022 – 2026 Five Year State Plan - Goals & Objectives

Each State Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council is required to submit a 5-Year State Plan to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) outlining the intended use of federal funding allocated for its basic operational grant. State Plans are focused on improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities through full inclusion and participation in all aspects of community life. The federal government expects DD Councils to identify goals that can be achieved in five years using available resources. Federal law mandates that the State Plan address some or all the Areas of Emphasis established by Congress in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act).

**GOAL 1:** SELF-ADVOCACY: Leadership and Advocacy
By 2026, People with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to leadership development opportunities and or training to increase their advocacy skills to improve their quality of life.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Annually, the DD Network will support individuals with developmental disabilities to learn the skills and tools necessary to be more self-determined.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Annually, the CNMI will have increase the number of self-advocate trainers so they can provide other self-advocates with opportunities to learn and engage in personal, collaborative, and civic leadership.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: Annually, the CNMI will increase the number of self-advocates active in public policy, advocacy, cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership activities.

**GOAL 2:** COMMUNITY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT – By 2026, The Council will strengthen communities in the CNMI to support people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: EMPLOYMENT By 2024, work with the CNMI Disability Network Partners to educate communities, train employers, and write one state policy to create more employment opportunities for job seekers with developmental disabilities in the CNMI.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: TRANSITION By 2024, work with the CNMI Transition Coalition, the CNMI Disability Network Partners and others to build or improve at least one practice and one policy meant to improve transition outcomes for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities from high school through postsecondary education/training.

OBJECTIVE 2.3: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - BUILDING CAPACITY: By 2026, people with developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to assistive technology by building the capacity of the CNMI Assistive Technology Program that will directly improve their access to education, employment, housing, transportation and healthcare the CNMI.

OBJECTIVE 2.4 By 2026, work with the Disability Network Partners (DNP) and government agencies to plan and develop strategies for the establishment of a central repository for disability related data housing.

OBJECTIVE 2.5 TARGETED DISPARITY By 2026, Asian families and people with developmental disabilities in the CNMI will have more information about formal and informal supportsand services so they can get services and supports that meet their individual needs and preferences in a culturally appropriate manner.

Proposed Amendments shown below:

OBJECTIVE 2.6: By 2024, the CNMI will work with at least two partners to increase the number respite caregivers to provide respite care for individuals with developmental disabilities and or those who are medically fragile and their families residing in the CNMI.

OBJECTIVE 2.7: EMERGING ISSUES: Annually, the Council will explore emerging issues impacting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families and take appropriate action, if needed.

OBJECTIVE 2.8: By 2023, the CNMI will have increased the number of CNMI First Responders who have participated in disability awareness training focused on the needs of people with disabilities and their families during emergencies and natural disasters.

**Your Input Wanted During the Council's State Plan Public Hearing:**

**TINIAN**

| Date | Venue | Time |
|---|---|---|
| June 8, 2022 | DYS Youth Center | 9:00am – 4:00pm |

**ROTA**

| Date | Venue | Time |
|---|---|---|
| June 9, 2022 | Rota Mayor's Office | 10:00am – 3:00pm |

**SAIPAN**

| Date | Venue | Time |
|---|---|---|
| June 16, 2022 | Northern Marianas College Building J - Room – K1 & K2 | 4:30pm – 5:30pm |
| June 17, 2022 | Center for Living Independently (CLI) Building #1366, Capitol Hill | 9:30am – 11:00am |

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:**
For reasonable accommodation (e.g., braille, audio format, large print etc.) please call the office of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at least five (5) days prior to the event at 664-7000/3/5 or email to: info@cnmicdd.gov.mp

Other accessible formats of the document are available upon request.

Public review of the Proposed Amendments to the Council's Five-Year State is required by law and helps us improve the plan. The public review period provides a 45-day window of opportunity for CNMI residents to evaluate the proposed amendments to the Goals and Objectives, and to share their comments so we can make improvements.
The proposed amendment of the Five-Year State Plan will be available at the office of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, building #1310, Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill or you may contact our office at (670) 664-7000/3/5.

Please submit written comments by email to info@cnmicdd.gov.mp For each comment, please reference goal number and objective number.

**Comment period:**
**June 2, 2022 – July 16, 2022**
Comments must be received via email by 4:30 p.m. CHST on **July 16, 2022.**

Thank you for your input!

# Petition vs *Insular Cases* gets boost from 8 amicus briefs

Following the lead of Supreme Court justices Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor, who in April called on the Supreme Court to overrule the controversial *Insular Cases* in "an appropriate case," a politically and ideologically diverse array of "friends of the court" filed eight amicus briefs calling on the high court to take up *Fitisemanu v. United States* and do just that.

The Biden-Harris Administration and a divided panel of the 10th Circuit have relied on the *Insular Cases* to deny that the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship applies to people born in U.S. territories. In April, John Fitisemanu—who is denied recognition as a U.S. citizen by a discriminatory federal law based on his birth in American Samoa—petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to take up his case, recognize him as a U.S. citizen, and overrule the *Insular Cases*.

"It is rare these days to see people from different political or ideological backgrounds agreeing on anything. So we are encouraged to see both Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, come together to support turning the page on the *Insular Cases* and the colonial framework they established," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for the 3.6 million residents of U.S. territories, 98% of whom are people of color. "These briefs will not just give the Supreme Court a lot to think about, but hopefully the Biden-Harris Administration as well as they consider whether to continue embracing the Supreme Court's racist decisions in the *Insular Cases*."

## Current and former territorial officials brief

A bipartisan group of current and former elected officials in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands argue that it is time for the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases* and recognize that those born in U.S. territories have a constitutional right to be recognized as U.S. citizens. They also address concerns raised by elected officials in American Samoa, demonstrating based on the experiences of each of their territories that recognition of citizenship does not threaten self-determination or the protection of land and culture.

The brief is joined by members of both the Republican and Democratic parties and both of Puerto Rico's two major parties, the Partido Nuevo Progresista and Partido Popular Democrático. Amici include Delegate Stacey Plaskett (U.S. Virgin Islands), Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas (Guam), former Puerto Rican governors Aníbal Acevedo Vilá and Dr. Pedro Rosselló, former Guam governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez, former Virgin Island governors Kenneth E. Mapp and John de Jongh, former Delegate Donna M. Christian-Christensen (Virgin Islands), former Guam lieutenant governor Kaleo Moylan, vice speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes (Guam Legislature), Rep. Sheila Jack Babauta (CNMI House of Representatives), and former Senate president of Puerto Rico Eduardo Bhatia. Amici are represented by Covington.

"It is time that the Supreme Court, President Biden, and Congress condemn the *Insular Cases* as inconsistent with the Constitution and who we are as a nation. This condemnation would be the same condemnation as has been given to several other rulings of that time period which created many race alienating and dehumanizing policies," said Plaskett, who represents the U.S. Virgin Islands as a non-voting Member of Congress. "In 2022 people born in the U.S. Virgin Islands and other territories should live in perpetuation limbo as to whether Congress could deny them recognition as U.S. citizens."

**» Prominent scholars, former judges, elected officials, civil rights groups, and more add their voices to overruling the *Insular Cases* and recognizing a right to citizenship in US territories**

"It's time for the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases* and recognize that people born on Guam and other territories have the same right to citizenship as anyone else born on U.S. soil," said Michael F.Q. as a non-voting Member of Congress.

## Citizenship scholars brief

An ideological diverse array of citizenship scholars argue that the Supreme Court should recognize that the Constitution's guarantee of birthright citizenship extends to people born in U.S. territories, as made clear based on the common law principle of *jus soli* enshrined in the 14th Amendment.

Amici include professors Sam Erman (USC Law), Michael Ramsey (San Diego Law), Linda S. Bosniak (Rutgers Law), Stella Burch Elias (Iowa Law), Kristin Collins (Boston Law), Christopher R. Green (Mississippi Law), Torrie Hester (St. Louis University), Linda K. Kerber (Iowa), D. Carolina Núñez (BYU Law), Nathan Perl-Rosenthal (USC), Polly J. Price (Emory Law), Lucy E. Salyer (New Hampshire), Rogers M. Smith (Pennsylvania), Katherine R. Unterman (Texas A&M), Charles R. Venator-Santiago (Connecticut), Ryan C. Williams (Boston Law). Amici are represented by Sidley.

"As a matter of original understanding, it is clear that the 14th Amendment guarantees a right to U.S. citizenship to people born in U.S. territories. And it is long past time that the Supreme Court dispel any doubts to the contrary," said Ramsey, professor of Law at University of San Diego, author of *Originalism and Birthright Citizenship* published in the *Georgetown Law Journal.*

## Constitutional law and legal history scholars brief

Leading scholars on the *Insular Cases* from a diverse array of ideological perspectives argue that the Supreme Court should grant review of *Fitisemanu* in order to overrule the *Insular Cases*, arguing that those cases "lack[] any basis in the Constitution" and "rest on offensive notions of racial inferiority."

Amici include law professors Christina Duffy Ponsa-Kraus (Columbia), Gary Lawson (Boston University), Guy-Uriel Emmanuel Charles (Harvard), Rafael Cox Alomar (University of the District of Columbia), Luis Fuentes-Rohwer (Indiana University Bloomington), J. Andrew Kent (Fordham), Sanford Levinson (University of Texas), Stephen I. Vladeck (University of Texas). Amici are represented by WilmerHale.

## Descendants of Dred Scott and Isabel Gonzalez brief

Lynn M. Jackson, the great-great-granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott, and Belinda Torres-Mary, the great-granddaughter of Isabel Gonzalez, call on the Supreme Court to take up *Fitisemanu* in order to avoid repeating mistakes of the past. In *Dred Scott* v. *Sandford*, the Supreme Court created a judicial exception to the American guarantee of birthright citizenship to deny citizenship to African Americans. In *Gonzales v. Williams*, the Supreme Court avoided recognizing Puerto Ricans as citizens, enabling the political branches to deny a right to citizenship for those born in U.S. territories. Amici are represented by Hogan Lovells.

"The Supreme Court has the rare opportunity here to correct its mistakes in *Dred Scott* and *Gonzales*. Inaction by the Supreme Court now would repeat the errors of those cases and perpetuate the idea that there can be racial limits on U.S. citizenship," said Neal Katyal, a partner at Hogan Lovells, who represents Jackson and Torres-Mary. Katyal is the former acting solicitor general of the United States under President Barack Obama, and in that role confessed error on behalf of the U.S. Justice Department for its role in the *Korematsu* and *Hirabayashi* cases.

## Former territorial judges brief

Retired federal and local judges from Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands argue that the Supreme Court should overrule the *Insular Cases* because they are "rooted in offensive racial stereotypes" and, based on their experiences, "unworkable in application." Further, they emphasize that Supreme Court action is needed "to ensure that no judge serving in the territories will ever again be forced to apply a precedent that assumes that he or she belongs to a sub-class deserving of fewer constitutional protections."

Amici include retired chief justice B.J. Cruz (Supreme Court of Guam), retired chief judge José Fusté (U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico), former judge Soraya Diase Coffelt (U.S. Virgin Islands Superior Court); retired chief judge Héctor Manuel Laffitte (U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico), retired chief justice Liana Fiol Matta (Supreme Court of Puerto Rico), and retired judge Adam G. Christian (U.S. Virgin Islands Superior Court). Amici are represented by Holwell Shuster & Goldberg.

## Civil rights brief

A dozen civil rights organizations argue that *Fitisemanu* "presents a rare opportunity to squarely address the *Insular Cases* and their deeply problematic 'territorial incorporation doctrine.'"Amici include the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Utah, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, Dēmos, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., LatinoJustice PRLDEF, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, OCA–Asian Pacific American Advocates, and Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.

"The *Insular Cases* cannot be reconciled with the text or original understanding of the Constitution and represent a set of racist assumptions about residents of U.S. territories that must be rejected. If the court doesn't act now to overrule the *Insular Cases*, it is not clear when it will have another chance," said Adriel I. Cepeda-Derieux, senior staff attorney at ACLU.

"Justice Sotomayor and Justice Gorsuch are right—the *Insular Cases* represent a shameful history of racist exclusion that we must forcefully reject as contrary to our basic democratic and constitutional ideals. It's well past time for the Supreme Court to once and for all put a full stop to continued reliance in federal courts on this wrong-headed precedent that relegates too many to second-class citizenship," said Lourdes M. Rosado, president and general counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

## Virgin Islands Bar Association brief

The Virgin Islands Bar Association calls on the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases* and recognize that all people born in U.S. territories have a right to citizenship that is not dependent on Congress. The brief emphasizes how overruling the *Insular Cases* would be consistent with principles of *stare decisis* set forth by the Supreme Court. Amici are represented by KutakRock LLP.

"People born in the U.S. Virgin Islands should not have to worry whether Congress will one day decide to stop recognizing them as U.S. citizens. The only reason this is even a question is because of a series of racist Supreme Court decisions known as the *Insular Cases*. It is long past time the court overrules these cases." said Alisha Udhwani, president of the VI Bar Association.

## Samoan Federation of America brief

The Samoan Federation of America—one of the oldest Samoan community organizations in the U.S. mainland, and a plaintiff in a similar prior lawsuit—are calling on the Supreme Court to recognize people born in American Samoa as U.S. citizens in order to bring an end to harms American Samoans face as a result of the century-long imposition of non-citizen U.S. national status by the U.S. government. Amici are represented by Orrick.

"As a result of a long history of discrimination by the federal government, American Samoans are citizens of nowhere even as they have the highest rate of military service of any American community. This isn't just un-American, it's unconstitutional," said Michelle Mataese, president of the Samoan Federation.

The Biden-Harris Administration is set to respond to the *Fitisemanu* petition on June 30, 2022. Members of Congress and prominent civil rights organizations have called on the Biden-Harris Justice Department to condemn the *Insular Cases*. The U.S. House of Representatives is also considering a House resolution condemning the *Insular Cases*, holding the first-ever congressional hearing on the *Insular Cases* last year.

The Supreme Court is expected to consider whether to grant review of *Fitisemanu* later this year.

More information about *Fitisemanu v. United States* is available at https://www.equalrightsnow.org/fitisemanu and at the Supreme Court's website at https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/21-1394.html. ***(Equally American)***

# FBI warns of scammers soliciting donations for Ukraine crisis

The FBI is warning the public of fraudulent schemes seeking donations or other financial assistance related to the crisis in Ukraine.

Criminal actors are taking advantage of the crisis in Ukraine by posing as Ukrainian entities needing humanitarian aid or developing fundraising efforts, including monetary and cryptocurrency donations.

Scammers similarly have used past crises as opportunities to target members of the public with fraudulent donation schemes.

Tips on how to protect yourself:

■ Be suspicious of online communications claiming to be individuals affected by the conflict in Ukraine and seeking immediate financial assistance.

■ Although the Ukrainian Government and other private organizations do maintain official donation mechanisms, be cautious and verify information about entities purporting to solicit aid for causes linked to the crisis in Ukraine. If an entity asks for donations to specific cryptocurrency addresses, be cautious, always carefully check if the addresses are legitimate, and compare the address alphanumeric characters to any known official addresses.

■ Do not communicate with or open texts, emails, attachments, or links from unknown individuals posing as Ukrainian entities in need of humanitarian aid.

■ Do not send payments to unknown individuals or organizations asking for financial assistance.

■ Best practices to verify charities include, but are not limited to, researching the charity online to see if there are news, reviews, or posts linking the charity to fraud; checking to see if the charity is registered with your state's charity regulator, if available; and checking the Internal Revenue Service's website (https://www.irs.gov) to see if the charity is registered.

If you believe you have been a victim of a financial internet scam or a fraudulent scheme related to the Ukrainian crisis, please file a report with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. If possible, include the following:

■ Identifying information about the individuals or charity, including name, phone number, address, and email address.

■ Financial transaction information such as the date, type of payment, amount, account numbers involved, the name and address of the receiving financial institution, and receiving cryptocurrency addresses.

■ Describe your interaction with the individual, including how contact was initiated, such as the type of communication, purpose of the request for money, how you were told or instructed to make payment, what information you provided to the criminal actor, and any other details pertinent to your complaint. ***(PR)***

# Kids at DYS get gifts, McDonald's coupon

**By LEIGH GASES**
Correspondent
LEIGH_GASES@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

Children currently under the care of the Division of Youth Services' Child Protective Services received a donation of assorted items and a McDonald's coupon worth $150 last Friday.

The McDonald's coupon was handed over by Shawn San Nicolas, PSS Pupil Transportation director, while the assorted items were handed over by Youth with a Mission director Rengesuul Yobech.

Currently, there are eight children at the DYS shelter and 13 foster children.

"The $150 gift certificate from [McDonald's] was a donation from the Public School System team that won first place during the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault Awareness Month Spirit Week during the month of April. This donation will purchase treats for the eight clients at the shelter," said DYS administrator Vivian Sablan.

As for the donation from Yobech, Youth With a Mission donated over 80 gift boxes for clients at the shelter, foster/kinship homes, and other wardship placements. The boxes include school supplies and other incentives, depending on the client's age.

DYS received the donations last Thursday, which the DYS Child Protective Services distributed last Friday.

Sablan also acknowledged YWAM coordinator Rengesuul Yobech and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada "for supporting our partnership and bringing smiles to our children under DYS care/custody."

Division of Youth Services staff pose with, seated from left, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Youth with a Mission Saipan director Rengesuul Yobech, Public School System Pupil Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas, and Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan and the donations given last Thursday at the Tanapag Youth Center.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-021

**Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1, for Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).*

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RAESP-22-021, Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-022

**Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1 for Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).*

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes** marked ***"CUC-RAESP-22-022, Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

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**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**

# Business

AMID STUBBORN INFLATION

## US consumer confidence slips

A customer pumps gas at this Madison, Miss., Sam's Club, after filling up a gasoline container, Tuesday, May 24, 2022. AP

**SILVER SPRING, Md.** (AP)—U.S. consumer confidence edged lower in May as Americans' view of their present and future prospects dimmed in the midst of persistent inflation.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index dipped to 106.4 in May—still a strong reading—from 108.6 in April.

The business research group's present situation index, which measures consumers' assessment of current business and labor conditions, also fell in May to 149.6 from 152.9 in April.

The expectations index, based on consumers' six-month outlook for income, business and labor market conditions, also declined in May, to 77.5 from 79 in April. It was above 80 in February and remains a weak spot in the survey.

President Joe Biden will meet with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Tuesday as soaring inflation continues to carve up Americans' earnings.

The meeting Tuesday will be the first since Biden renominated Powell to lead the central bank and weeks after the Senate confirmed a second term. The White House said the pair would discuss the state of the U.S. and global economy and especially four-decade high inflation, described as Biden's "top economic priority."

The Federal Reserve raised its main borrowing rate by a half point in early May, the main mechanism for combatting inflation. Multiple rate hikes, with the possibility of more half-point increases, are expected this year.

Inflation soared over the past year at its fastest pace in more than 40 years, with rising costs for just about everything negating Americans' pay raises.

The Labor Department reported earlier in May that consumer prices jumped 8.3% last month from a year ago. That was below the 8.5% year-over-year surge in March, which was the highest since 1981. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.3% from March to April, the smallest rise in eight months.

U.S. producer prices soared 11% in April from a year earlier, a hefty gain that indicates high inflation will remain a burden for consumers and businesses in the months ahead.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Distress in Singapore as Malaysia bans chicken export

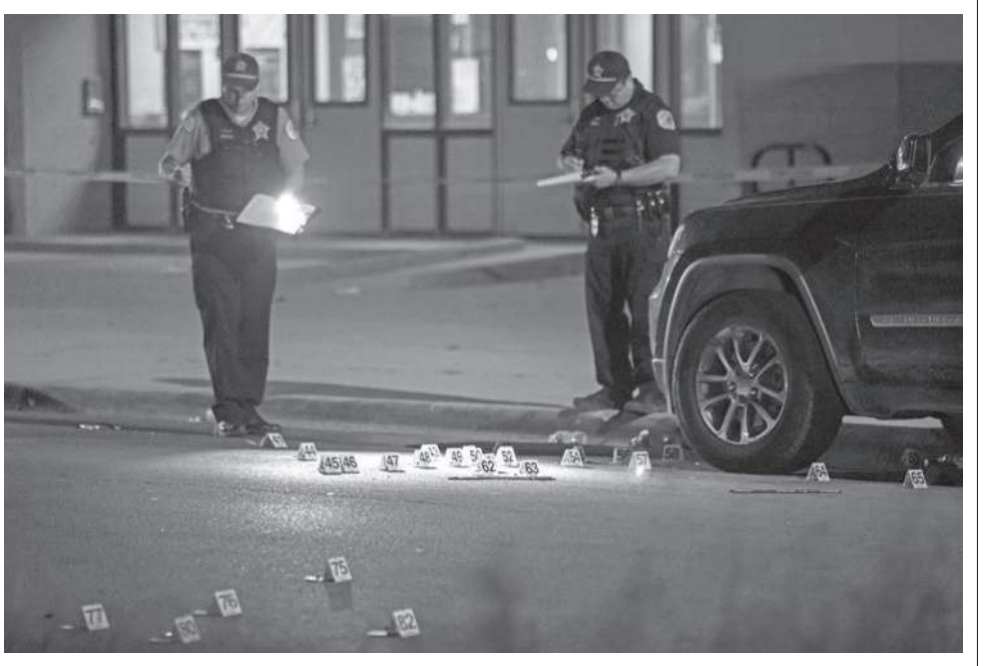
**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP) — Diners in Singapore are bracing for prices of their national chicken-and-rice dish to soar as neighboring Malaysia prepares to block exports starting Wednesday to increase supplies in its own markets and hold down surging prices. Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced last week that, beginning June 1, Malaysia will ban exports of 3.6 million chickens a month until domestic prices and production stabilize. The move is felt most in Singapore, which sources a third of its poultry from Malaysia. Almost all the chickens are imported live to Singapore, where they are slaughtered and chilled. Singapore consumers have been rushing to stock up on fresh chicken ahead of the ban, with local media reporting that shelves in some wet markets and supermarkets have been cleared of poultry.

### Company to Las Vegas chapels: No more Elvis-themed weddings

**LAS VEGAS** (AP) — Las Vegas chapels of love that use Elvis Presley's likeness could find themselves becoming Heartbreak Hotels. The licensing company that controls the name and image of "The King" is ordering Sin City chapel operators to stop using Elvis in themed ceremonies, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported on Monday. Authentic Brands Group sent cease-and-desist letters in early May to multiple chapels, which are expected to be compliant by now. With Elvis so closely tied to Vegas' wedding industry, some say the move could decimate their businesses. "We are a family-run business, and now we're hanging with the big dogs," said Kayla Collins, who operates LasVegasElvisWeddingChapel.com and the Little Chapel of Hearts with her husband. "That's our bread and butter. I don't get it. We were just hitting our stride again through COVID, then this happens." Clark County Clerk Lynn Goya, who led a marketing campaign promoting Las Vegas as a wedding destination, said the order for chapels to stop using Elvis couldn't have come at a worse time for the sector.

# Nation

## Weekend sees more shootings



Chicago police investigate on the 800 block of South Karlov Avenue, where a 16-year-old girl was among five people seriously wounded in a shooting near Daniel Webster Elementary School in the Lawndale neighborhood on the West Side, early Sunday, May 29, 2022, in Chicago. AP

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Even as the nation reeled over the massacre of 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, multiple mass shootings happened elsewhere over the Memorial Day weekend in areas both rural and urban. Single-death incidents still accounted for most gun fatalities.

Gunfire erupted in the predawn hours of Sunday at a festival in the town of Taft, Oklahoma, sending hundreds of revelers scattering and customers inside the nearby Boots Café diving for cover. Eight people ages 9 to 56 were shot, and one of them died.

Six children ages 13 to 15 were wounded Saturday night in a touristy quarter of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Two groups got into an altercation, and two people in one of them pulled guns and started shooting.

Ten people were wounded, and three law enforcement officers injured, in a shooting incident at a Memorial Day nighttime street gathering in Charleston, South Carolina.

And at a club and liquor store in Benton Harbor in southwestern Michigan, a 19-year-old man was killed and six other people were wounded after gunfire rang out among a crowd around 2:30 a.m. Monday. Police found multiple shell casings of various calibers.

Those and others met a common definition of a mass shooting, in which four or more people are shot. Such occurrences have become so regular, news of them is likely to fade fast.

There were at least two incidents in Chicago between late Friday and Monday that qualified as mass shootings, including one near a closed elementary school on the West Side in which the wounded included a 16-year-old girl.

Single-fatality shootings also rocked families and communities.

In Arkansas a 7-year-old girl was killed Saturday in a busy area near the Little Rock Zoo, in what police described as "an isolated event involving acquaintances."

And on Chicago's South Side, the body of a young man slain at an outdoor birthday party lay on the sidewalk early Sunday, covered by a white sheet. His mother stood nearby, crying.

Overall, Chicago recorded 32 gunfire incidents over the weekend in which 47 people were shot and nine died.

In the wake of the Uvalde shooting, by an 18-year-old who legally purchased an AR-style rifle, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republican opponents of tougher gun laws quickly pointed at Chicago as an example of how such measures don't work, saying, "more people are shot every weekend (there) than there are in schools in Texas."

High rates of gun violence in Chicago have made a series of Democratic governments there, including that of current Mayor Lori Lightfoot, vulnerable to criticism—sometimes from within their own party.

But the assertions by Abbott and others are misleading and oversimplify the situation in the country's third-largest city. Many guns used in the killing of Chicagoans were initially bought in other states with less stringent gun laws, like Indiana and Mississippi. Chicago officials also note that the city records fewer murders per capita than many other smaller U.S. cities.

Police chiefs there and in other cities cancelled days off to boost the numbers of officers over the holiday, hoping it would act as a deterrent. Independent conflict mediators also hit the streets, using social media to identify simmering conflicts with the potential to explode into real-world violence.

In Detroit, Police Chief James White promised to strictly enforce a curfew aimed at youths and teens after three people were wounded during a shooting earlier this month in Greektown, a popular downtown restaurant and entertainment district.

Such strategies may have worked in individual cases, but statistics from several cities didn't indicate violence was kept at or below levels from previous years. Chicago's Memorial Day weekend death toll was three times last year's.

It's long been a rule of thumb in northern cities that hot weather means more violence. Temperatures in Detroit and Chicago were in the 80s—unseasonably warm—during the three-day weekend, bringing more people outside and increasing the chances of clashes, often between rival gangs. Alcohol at holiday parties can fuel personal beefs, some of which first fester online.

# Asia

## Sea feud with China flares as Marcos preps for presidency

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine government announced Tuesday a new diplomatic protest against China over disputes in the South China Sea, a long-thorny issue that has flared anew as the next Philippine president prepares to take office next month.

The Philippines has filed hundreds of diplomatic protests against Beijing in recent years for what it considers acts of aggression in the disputed waters, despite improved ties between Beijing and Manila under outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, whose six-year term ends on June 30.

The territorial conflicts are among the key challenges President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will face when he takes office after his landslide electoral victory on May 9. He has said he will use diplomatic means with China over the issue, the same approach adopted by Duterte, who has been criticized for not taking a more aggressive stance against Beijing's increasingly assertive actions in the resource-rich and busy waterway.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday it filed a diplomatic protest over China's imposition early this month of an annual fishing ban lasting three and a half months that covers areas in the disputed waters where "the Philippines has sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction."

It said the ban is not limited to Chinese fishing vessels and violates the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea and a 2016 arbitration tribunal's decision that invalidated Beijing's vast historic claims in the strategic waterway and upheld the Philippines' sovereign rights in a stretch of coastal waters called its exclusive economic zone.

China does not recognize the arbitration ruling and continues to defy it.

The Chinese ban "has no basis in law, and undermines the mutual trust, confidence, and respect that should underpin bilateral relations," the department said in a statement.

"The Philippines calls on China to comply with its obligations under international law" and "cease and desist from the conduct of illegal actions," including its "annual practice of declaring a fishing ban over areas that extend far beyond China's legitimate maritime entitlements," it said.

Separately, Philippine foreign affairs officials said late Monday that the department summoned a Chinese diplomat in early April to protest alleged harassment by the Chinese coast guard of a research vessel in the South China Sea.

They said they were reviewing other recent violations of Philippine rights in Second Thomas Shoal and Reed Bank, which lie within Manila's exclusive economic zone but which China also claims, before taking further diplomatic action.

The department said it summoned a Chinese Embassy official in Manila to protest the "harassment by the Chinese coast guard" of research vessel R/V Legend, which was undertaking a survey of undersea fault lines along the Manila Trench west of the northern Philippines.

Philippine diplomats did not provide other details, but people involved in the scientific research told The Associated Press last month that a Chinese coast guard ship shadowed R/V Legend, which was carrying five Filipino scientists and an unspecified number of Taiwanese counterparts, from March 25 to 30.

A Chinese coast guard ship maneuvered about 2 to 3 nautical miles (3 to 5 kilometers) from the R/V Legend, causing concern among the scientists because the research vessel was towing a long survey cable in the sea, said Carla Dimalanta of the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines.

The offshore survey, which was scheduled to end April 13, was a joint project of the Philippine institute and the National Central University in Taiwan and aimed to help map offshore faults and other geologic features that could set off earthquakes, tsunamis and other hazards. The research was partly funded by the Philippine Department of Science and Technology, she said.

The Filipino scientists reported the incident to the Philippine government, which deployed a coast guard patrol ship, the BRP Capones, to keep watch on the research vessel, the coast guard in Manila said last month.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Shanghai starts coming back to life as COVID lockdown eases

**SHANGHAI** (AP)—Shanghai residents visited the waterfront Bund and ate and drank along streets patrolled by police early Wednesday as people in China's largest city savored the easing of its severe two-month COVID-19 lockdown. The lockdown set back the national economy and largely confined millions to their homes, while its ruthless and often chaotic enforcement prompted protests in person and online that are seldom seen under China's strict authoritarian government. Full bus and subway service will be restored Wednesday, as will basic rail connections with the rest of China. Still, more than half a million people in the city of 25 million are still under lockdown or in designated control zones because virus cases are still being detected. The government says all restrictions will be gradually lifted, but local neighborhood committees still wield considerable power to implement sometimes conflicting and arbitrary policies.

### Philippine police say they killed 4 Chinese kidnap suspects

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine police killed four suspected Chinese kidnappers in a gunbattle and rescued a Chinese man they had allegedly abducted in a central city, officials said Tuesday. Backed by a SWAT team and intelligence agents, police raided a hideout in Lapu Lapu city on Monday night after tracking down the suspects, who had received a partial ransom payment through the Chinese smartphone app WeChat, police said. "Our men were met with gunfire from the suspects, prompting them to retaliate," said police Brig. Gen. Rudolph Dimas, who heads the national police's anti-kidnapping force. The Chinese victim, identified by police as Lyu Xingou from China's southeastern province of Fujian, was seized from his house by Chinese-speaking gunmen last Wednesday as he prepared to leave for work in Lapu Lapu city, police said. The kidnappers called the victim's son in China and demanded a ransom, which the family partially paid through WeChat in an arrangement that allowed the police to track down the suspects, police said, without elaborating.

# World

## 'Russian forces seize half of city'

View of an apartment building damaged in an overnight missile strike, in Sloviansk, Ukraine, Tuesday, May 31, 2022. AP

**SLOVIANSK, Ukraine** (AP)—Russian forces in a "frenzied push" have seized half of Sievierodonetsk, the eastern Ukrainian city that is key to Moscow's efforts to complete the capture of the industrial Donbas region, the mayor said Tuesday.

"The city is essentially being destroyed ruthlessly block by block," Oleksandr Striuk said. He said heavy street fighting continued and artillery barrages threatened the lives of the estimated 13,000 civilians still sheltering in the ruined city that once was home to more than 100,000.

A Russian airstrike on Sievierodonetsk hit a tank of nitric acid at a chemical factory, causing a huge leak of fumes, according to Serhiy Haidai, governor of the Luhansk region. He posted a picture of a big cloud hanging over the city and urged residents to stay inside and wear gas masks or improvised ones.

Haidai said later Tuesday that "most of Sievierodonetsk" was under Russian control, though he added that fierce fighting continued and the city wasn't surrounded.

Sievierodonetsk is important to Russian efforts to capture the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine's defense. Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian troops in the region for eight years and held swaths of territory even before the invasion.

President Joe Biden said Tuesday the U.S. will provide Ukraine with the more advanced rocket systems that its leaders have been begging for. In an essay published in The New York Times, Biden said the rocket systems will enable Ukraine "to more precisely strike key targets."

U.S. officials, speaking before Biden's announcement on condition of anonymity, said Washington will send Ukraine a small number of high-tech, medium-range rocket systems. The rockets could be used both to intercept Russian artillery and to take out Russian positions in towns where fighting is intense, such as Sievierodonetsk.

The rocket systems would be taken from U.S. inventory, which would get them to Ukraine quickly. Ukrainian troops would also need training on the new systems, which could take at least a week or two.

Sievierodonetsk, which is 145 kilometers (90 miles) south of the Russian border, is in an area that is the last pocket under Ukrainian government control in the Luhansk region. The Donbas is made up of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Hurricane Agatha kills 11, leaves 20 missing in south Mexico

**SAN ISIDRO DEL PALMAR, Mexico** (AP)—Hurricane Agatha caused flooding and mudslides that killed at least 11 people and left 20 missing, the governor of the southern state of Oaxaca said Tuesday. Gov. Alejando Murat said rivers overflowed their banks and swept away people in homes, while other victims were buried under mud and rocks. "There were fundamentally two reasons" for the deaths, Murat told local media. "There were rivers that overflowed, and on the other hand, and the most serious part, were landslides." Murat said the deaths appeared to be concentrated in a number of small towns in the mountains, just inland from the coast. But he said there were also reports of three children missing near the resort of Huatulco.

### UN condemns piracy in world's hotspot—the Gulf of Guinea

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Tuesday strongly condemning piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking in the Gulf of Guinea, the world's top hotspot for attacks on shipping and seafarers. The resolution sponsored by Ghana and Norway calls on countries on Africa's west coast along the Gulf of Guinea to criminalize piracy and armed robbery at sea and take action to penalize perpetrators. It stresses the importance of enhanced coordination among countries on the Gulf of Guinea and international and regional organizations to deter pirates and robbers. It also urges all countries to share information with Interpol, the international law enforcement body. Ghana's U.N. ambassador, Harold Agyeman, told the council that despite a resolution it adopted 10 years ago and a code of conduct on the way in which states in the region address the issue of piracy, 130 of the 135 kidnappings of ships' crews worldwide in 2020 took place in the Gulf of Guinea.

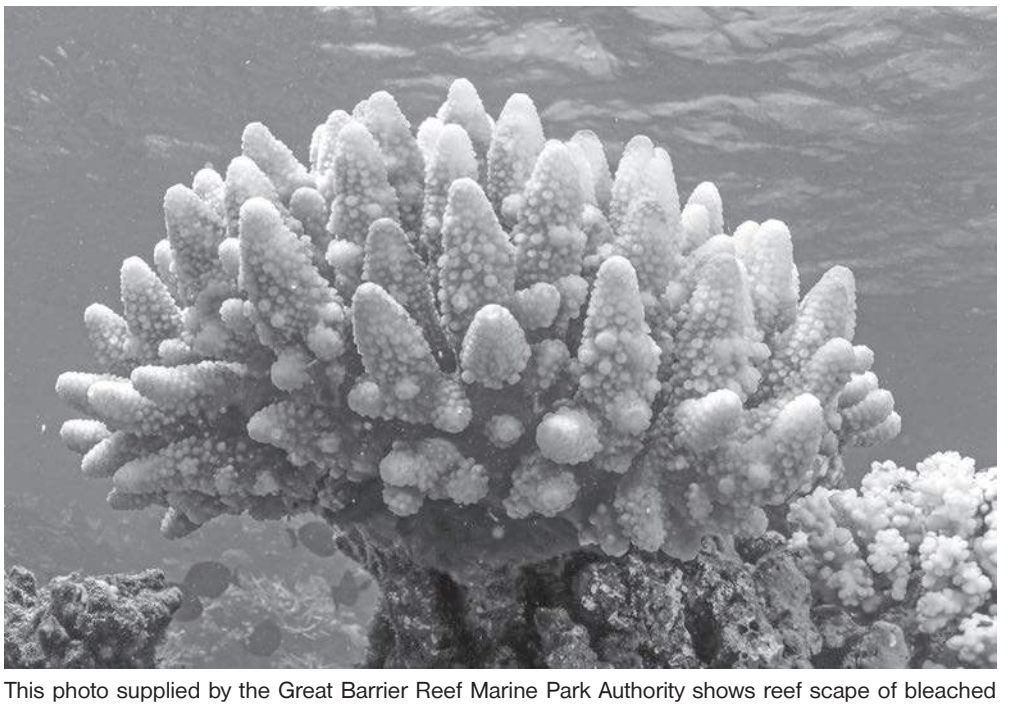
# Environment

## Most Great Barrier Reef coral studied this year was bleached

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—More than 90% of Great Barrier Reef coral surveyed this year was bleached in the fourth such mass event in seven years in the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, Australian government scientists said.

Bleaching is caused by global warming, but this is the reef's first bleaching event during a La Niña weather pattern, which is associated with cooler Pacific Ocean temperatures, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority said in its an annual report released late Tuesday that found 91% of the areas surveyed were affected.



This photo supplied by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority shows reef scape of bleached coral in the Townsville/Whitsunday management area of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, March. 15, 2015. AP

Bleaching in 2016, 2017 and 2020 damaged two-thirds of the coral in the famed reef off Australia's eastern coast.

Coral bleaches as a heat stress response and scientists hope most of the coral will recover from the current event, said David Wachenfeld, chief scientist at the authority, which manages the reef ecosystem.

"The early indications are that the mortality won't be very high," Wachenfeld told Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Wednesday.

"We are hoping that we will see most of the coral that is bleached recover and we will end up with an event rather more like 2020 when, yes, there was mass bleaching, but there was low mortality," Wachenfeld added.

The bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 led to "quite high levels of coral mortality," Wachenfeld said.

Last December, the first month of the Southern Hemisphere summer, was the hottest December the reef had experienced since 1900. A "marine heatwave" had set in by late February, the report said.

A United Nations delegation visited the reef in March to assess whether the reef's World Heritage listing should be downgraded due to the ravages of climate change.

In July last year, Australia garnered enough international support to defer an attempt by UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural organization, to downgrade the reef's World Heritage status to "in danger" because of damage caused by climate change.

But the question will be back on the World Heritage Committee's agenda at its annual meeting next month.

The latest bleaching is an unwelcome reminder of the differences in climate change policy among Australian politicians.

The conservative government seeking reelection on May 21 has less ambitious emission reduction targets than the center-left opposition is promising.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Liberal Party aims to reduce Australia's emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

The opposition Labor Party has promised to reduce emissions by 43% by the end pf the decade.

Morrison was widely criticized at the U.N. climate conference last November for failing to set a more ambitious target.

## Experts: Everything points to another busy hurricane season

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Batten down the hatches for another nasty hurricane season.

Nearly every natural force and a bunch of human-caused ones—more than just climate change—have turned the last several Atlantic hurricane seasons into deadly and expensive whoppers. The season that starts Wednesday looks like another note in a record-breaking refrain because all those ingredients for disaster are still going strong, experts warn.

They say these factors point to but don't quite promise more trouble ahead: the natural climate event La Nina, human-caused climate change, warmer ocean waters, the Gulf of Mexico's deep hot Loop Current, increased storminess in Africa, cleaner skies, a multi-decade active storm cycle and massive development of property along the coast.

"It's everything and the kitchen sink," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

In the past two years, forecasters ran out of names for storms. It's been a costly rogue's gallery of major hurricanes—with winds of at least 111 mph (179 kph)—striking land in the past five years: Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Michael, Dorian, Humberto, Laura, Teddy, Delta, Zeta, Eta, Iota, Grace and Ida.

"That's the pattern that we've been locked into. And what a statistic to think about: From 2017 to 2021, more Category four and five (hurricanes) made U.S. landfall than from 1963 to 2016," National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said in an Associated Press interview in front of two hurricane-hunter planes that fly into the storms.

**ON THE NET**

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Graham, echoing most experts and every pre-season forecast, said "we've got another busy one" coming. Last year, the Atlantic set a record for six above average hurricane seasons in a row, smashing the old record of three in a row, and forecasters predict a seventh.

The only contrary sign is that for the first time since 2014, a storm didn't form before the official June 1 start of the hurricane season, but forecasters are watching the Eastern Pacific's record-setting Hurricane Agatha that looks likely to cross over land and reform as Alex in the Gulf of Mexico later this week.

Here's what may make the Atlantic chaotic this season:

### LA NINA

One of the biggest influences on Atlantic hurricane seasons occurs half a world away in the temporarily cooling waters of the equatorial Pacific, the natural cyclical phenomenon called La Nina, the more dangerous for the United States flip side to El Nino.

La Nina alters weather across the world, including making hurricane development in the Atlantic more likely. It starts with the Sahel region of Africa, where the seeds of the many of the strongest midseason hurricanes, called Cape Verde storms, form. That often dry region is wet and stormy in La Nina and that helps with early formation.

One weather feature that can decapitate storms or prevent them from forming in the first place is high cross winds called shear. But La Nina pretty much deadens shear, which is "a huge factor" for more storm activity, University of Albany hurricane researcher Kristen Corbosiero said.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Studies show that climate change is making hurricanes wetter, because warm air can hold more moisture, and are making the strongest storms a bit stronger. Storms also may be stalling more, allowing them to drop more rain over the same place, like in 2017's Harvey, where more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) fell in one spot. They are also rapidly intensifying more often, experts say.

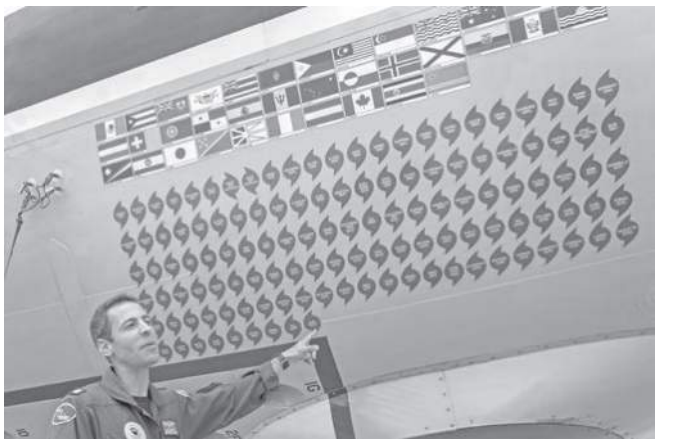
While studies point to an increasing number of the strongest storms because of human-caused climate change, scientists still disagree over what global warming means for the overall frequency of all storms. Some scientists see a slight decrease because of fewer weaker storms, but others, such as MIT hurricane researcher Kerry Emanuel, see an overall increase in the total number of storms.

A study by Emanuel found a general increase in Atlantic storm s over 150 years, with some exceptions. That increase is too large to be directly linked to climate change, Emanuel said, "but it could be indirectly related to climate change" especially if global warming is changing ocean circulation speeds as suspected.

### WARMER WATER

Warm water acts as fuel for hurricanes. Storms can't form until waters hit 79 degrees (26 degrees Celsius) and the deeper the warm water reaches, and the higher its temperature, the more the hurricane has to feed on.

And because of climate change and natural weather variables, the water in much of the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico is warm and inviting for storms, University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said. In the key storm formation area, waters are about half a degree warmer (0.3 degrees Celsius) than last year at this time of year, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hurricane seasonal forecaster Matthew Rosencrans.



Lt. Commander Sam Urato, a P-3 pilot of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, points to decals on the fuselage of the Lockheed WP-3D Orion 'hurricane hunter' aircraft representing the hurricanes it has penetrated during a hurricane awareness tour at Washington National Airport, Arlington, Va., Tuesday, May 3, 2022 AP

### LOOP CURRENT

In the Gulf of Mexico there's a normal phenomenon called the Loop Current, where warm water runs extremely deep. That's important because usually hurricanes bring up cold deep water when they go over warm water and that limits their strengthening. But the Loop Current often turbocharges storms and it sheds eddies of warm deep water all over the Gulf for storm intensification.

This year the loop current seems especially strong, northward and worrisome, Emanuel and other experts said. They compared it to the Loop Current that intensified Camille in 1969, Katrina in 2005 and Ida last year.

On Monday the Loop Current was 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) warmer than normal, McNoldy said.

### CLEANER AIR

Traditional air pollution from factories and cars—the dirty air of smog and small particles—reflects sunlight and cools the atmosphere, scientists say. That cooling effect from air pollution probably helped decrease the number of storms in the 1970s and 1980s, which was a quiet period in the Atlantic.

But since Europe and the United States cleaned up much of their air pollution, the Atlantic has gotten stormier during hurricane season, while just the opposite is happening in Asia where air pollution is increasing, a new study said. Experts said the decrease in air pollution and increase in Atlantic storms is likely a permanent condition now.

# Life & Style

## Cosby faces sex abuse allegations again as civil trial opens

**SANTA MONICA, Calif.** (AP)—Bill Cosby will again be facing sex abuse allegations Wednesday as attorneys give opening statements in a civil trial that's one of the last remaining legal claims against the comedian.

Lawyers for 64-year-old Judy Huth will outline the evidence they plan to present that Cosby forced her to perform a sex act at the Playboy Mansion in 1975 when she was 16 years old. The case will hinge on the testimony of Huth, bolstered by photos and other archival exhibits to place the incident in time.

Cosby

Cosby's attorneys, who say no sexual abuse happened, are likely to emphasize that the burden of proving the nearly 50-year-old case lies entirely with the plaintiffs. They have acknowledged that Cosby took Huth to the Playboy Mansion, as a photo from the visit shows, but say they believe she was not a minor when it happened.

The trial is one of the last cases Cosby, 85, faces after a Pennsylvania appeals court threw out his criminal sexual assault conviction and freed him from prison 11 months ago. Several other lawsuits alleging sexual misconduct were settled by his insurer against his will.

Cosby will not testify after the judge ruled that he could assert his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. And he has no plans to leave his Pennsylvania home to attend the trial, which is taking place at a small courthouse in Santa Monica. Cosby's representatives say glaucoma has left him blind and made travel too difficult.

## No verdict yet in Depp-Heard trial; jury to return today

**FAIRFAX, Va.** (AP)—A jury finished a second day of deliberations yesterday without reaching a verdict in the defamation claims of Johnny Depp and ex-wife Amber Heard over their volatile and unhappy marriage.

The seven-person civil jury heard closing arguments Friday and deliberated for about two hours before leaving for the long Memorial Day weekend. Jurors then deliberated another seven hours yesterday. They are scheduled to resume deliberations today in Fairfax County Circuit Court.

Depp is suing Heard for $50 million, accusing her of libeling him with a 2018 op-ed she wrote describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." Heard filed a $100 million counterclaim against the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star after his lawyer called her allegations a hoax. Each accuses the other of destroying their career.

Testimony during the six-week trial featured a litany of lurid details of their short marriage. Heard testified that Depp physically or sexually assaulted her more than a dozen times. During his testimony, Depp testified that he never struck Heard, that she concocted the abuse allegations, and that she was the one who physically attacked him, multiple times.

During closing arguments, both sides told the jury that a verdict in their favor would give their clients their lives back.

## BTS visits White House to discuss combating hate crime surge

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—K-Pop sensation BTS visited the White House on Tuesday to talk with President Joe Biden about combating the rise in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans—bringing superstar sizzle to an otherwise sad and scary topic.

AP

RM, center, accompanied by other K-pop supergroup BTS members from left, V, Jungkook, Jimin, Jin, J-Hope, and Suga speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

Band members J-Hope, RM, Suga, Jungkook, V, Jin and Jimin joined White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre at her briefing with reporters on the final day of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Jimin said the band had been "devastated by the recent surge" of crime and intolerance against Asian Americans that has persisted since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's not wrong to be different," Suga said through an interpreter. "Equality begins when we open up and embrace all of our differences." V said that "everyone has their own history."

"We hope today is one step forward to understanding and respecting each and everyone as a valuable person," V added.

The band members wore black suits and ties and took turns briefly stepping to the podium. They got a tour of the White House before the briefing, and held a closed-door meeting with the president in the Oval Office afterward. Biden administration officials have spent recent weeks holding roundtable discussions and other meetings with Asian American leaders to discuss the violence.

## Judge: No 'speck' of proof in Palin's libel case against NYT

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The judge who presided over Sarah Palin's libel case against The New York Times denied her request Tuesday for a new trial, saying she failed to introduce "even a speck" of evidence necessary to prove actual malice by the newspaper.

Palin

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff made the assertion in a written decision as he rejected post-trial claims from Palin's lawyers.

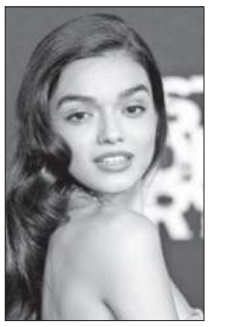
Her attorneys had asked the judge to grant a new trial or disqualify himself as biased against her, citing several evidentiary rulings by Rakoff that they said were errors. Those ranged from how the questioning of jurors occurred during jury selection, to how jurors were instructed when they asked questions during deliberations.

"In actuality, none of these was erroneous, let alone a basis for granting Palin a new trial," the judge said.

Rakoff wrote that regardless of her post-trial motions, Palin was required at a trial earlier this year to show that an error in a published editorial was motivated by actual malice—a requirement in libel lawsuits involving public figures.

## Zegler in 'Hunger Games' prequel

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Fresh off her breakthrough role in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," Rachel Zegler will star in Lionsgate's planned "Hunger Games" prequel.


Zegler

The studio announced Tuesday that Zegler will play Lucy Gray Baird in "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," an extension of the "Hunger Games" saga that takes place decades before the adventures of Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss Everdeen. Katniss played in the 74th Hunger Games; Baird will be a part of the 10th Hunger Games.

Suzanne Collins, whose books were adapted into the $3 billion blockbuster franchise, in 2020 published a prequel novel upon which "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" is based. In the film, Lucy Gray Baird, a tribute from the impoverished District 12, sings in a pivotal moment during the reaping ceremony. Zegler stars opposite Tom Blyth, who plays the 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow.

## Self-centered brother has siblings at their wits' end

**DEAR ABBY:** I come from a nice family. My siblings are thoughtful and kind, but one of my brothers is a conversational narcissist. He drones on for hours (if we let him) without asking a single question to engage another person.

He sees nothing wrong with talking endlessly about his work and his acquisitions, which interest no one. He will compare, indirectly, my home with his, assuming that his is far superior and better decorated—never considering that my home is just right for me and that I do not lust for more. All of us listen to him and do our best to show an interest without ever receiving that courtesy in return.

How can we nudge him toward showing an interest in others? In his times of need, I have been there for him and listened to his troubles, and I have gotten the impression that he's kinder than any of us have assumed, given his self-centered ramblings. Is there any way to influence him toward being a more thoughtful conversationalist?

**SORE-EARED SIBLING**

**DEAR SIBLING: Yes, there is. "Someone" is going to have to tell this brother—in as gentle language as possible — that hogging the conversation is as unwelcome as hogging all the food at the buffet. He should also be told that comparing what he has to that of his siblings, who may have less, comes across as bragging, which makes them uncomfortable.**

**If no one has the courage to address this, a group intervention may be needed to stanch the motormouth. However, if this is more than any of you want to risk, see this sibling separately one-on-one. If he's not playing to a crowd, he may behave differently.**

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My ex-husband and I divorced three years ago after he had an affair and destroyed our lives (including his daughter's, who considered me her only real mom). The divorce took about a year. Since then, he has stopped communicating with me and pretends I never existed. My stepdaughter, "Dana," however, never let go.

I held on as well for a couple of years, but as time goes on, I am feeling I'm in an increasingly impossible situation. What my ex did and his actions that followed were incredibly cruel. They devastated me. Staying in touch with Dana has slowly become a painful reminder of that and has made it difficult for me to close this unhappy chapter of my life. I don't want to hurt Dana. I hope that one day she'll understand, but I feel the need to cease contact in order to heal fully. Is this too cruel?

**TRAUMATIZED IN FLORIDA**

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
*UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE*

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

**DEAR TRAUMATIZED: What a sad situation. I'm sorry you feel there is no other way to heal from your ex-husband's betrayal than to distance yourself from Dana, who loves you. However, feeling as you do, you must take care of yourself. Please do not "ghost" her. It is important that you explain to her, as kindly as possible, your reasons for ending your relationship, so she understands this is not her fault.**

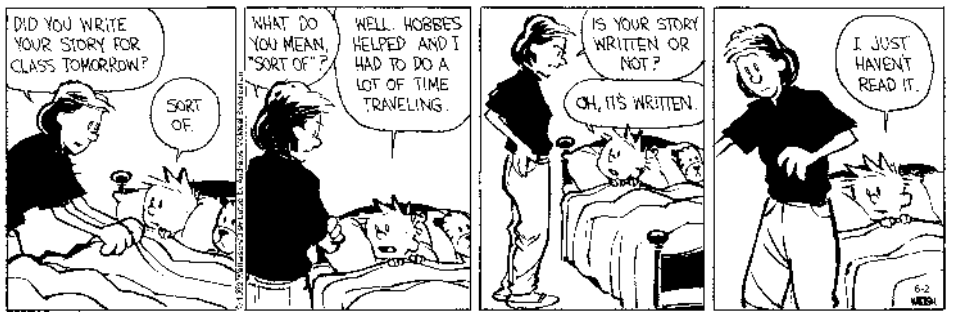
■■■■

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

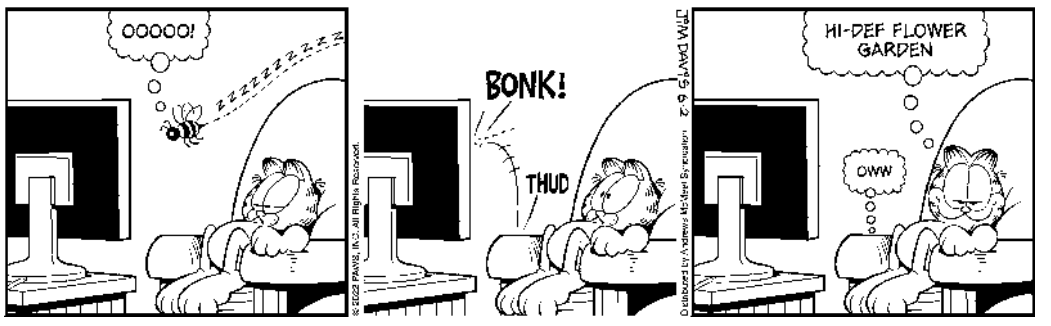
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DID YOU WRITE YOUR STORY FOR CLASS TOMORROW?
SORT OF.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SORT OF"?
WELL, HOBBES HELPED AND I HAD TO DO A LOT OF TIME TRAVELING.
IS YOUR STORY WRITTEN OR NOT?
OH, IT'S WRITTEN.
I JUST HAVEN'T READ IT.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I DON'T EVEN WANT ONE OF YOUR AMAZING NEW JELLY BEANS.
DAD. I'M SIX.
YOUR REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY WON'T WORK ON ME.
I WANT ONE MORE THAN I'VE EVER WANTED ANYTHING.
NEITHER WILL REVERSE REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 "Hey, sailor!"
5 Purse
8 Hammett pooch
12 Naked
13 Parisian pal
14 Bridge
15 Costa —
16 Droop
17 Legal document
18 Andre of tennis
20 Goes bad
22 Can material
23 Sweetie
24 Military conflicts
27 Surrendering
32 Hosp. area
33 Brit. record label
34 Longoria of TV
35 Earthly
38 Apothecary measure
39 Chess piece
40 Shelter
42 Dreaded
45 Wise sayings
49 PTA and NEA, e.g.
50 Rule, for short
52 Nile queen, informally
53 Writer James
54 Exist
55 Actor Richard
56 Parliamentarian
57 "It's c-c-cold!"
58 Without

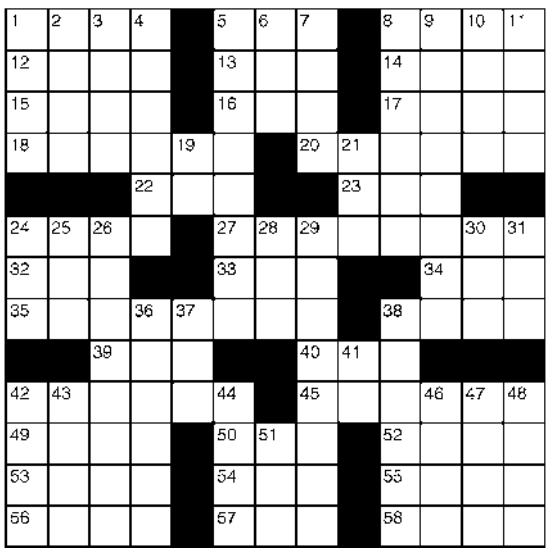
**DOWN**

1 "East of Eden" girl
2 Reagan Cabinet member
3 Killer whale
4 Bakery supplies
5 Kim of "Blind Date"
6 Docs' org.
7 Musician's jobs
8 Fainting
9 Spaniel type
10 Follow
11 Picnic intruders
19 Yes, to Juan
21 Greek consonant
24 Humorist
25 Tennis feat
26 One on a haphazard search
28 "— Little Teapot"
29 Town denizen
30 A.C.C. school
31 Nonstick spray
36 Analyzed, as a sentence
37 Count start
38 Rids of rime
41 Former partner
42 Baby horse
43 Thus
44 Colorless
46 Gymnast Korbut
47 Intend
48 Male offspring
51 Blunder

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | I | L | ■ | T | A | F | ■ | T | B | S | P |
| O | M | N | I | ■ | A | L | S | ■ | A | R | I | E |
| B | A | C | K | R | U | B | S | ■ | T | I | N | A |
| O | S | H | E | A | ■ | ■ | T | R | A | C | K | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | E | N | S | ■ | I | R | K | ■ | ■ |
| B | U | B | Y | ■ | E | T | D | S | ■ | R | I | B |
| U | N | F | ■ | C | R | O | A | K | ■ | F | N | O |
| T | I | F | ■ | A | D | I | N | ■ | D | A | Y | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | E | P | ■ | C | A | F | E | ■ | ■ |
| H | A | R | L | E | M | ■ | ■ | I | P | A | S | S |
| U | N | J | M | ■ | B | U | S | R | O | U | T | E |
| L | A | N | E | ■ | A | S | K | ■ | S | L | A | V |
| U | S | S | R | ■ | S | A | Y | ■ | E | D | G | E |

Yesterday's answer 6-2



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Justin Long, 44; Zachary Quinto, 45; Dana Carvey, 67; Dennis Haysbert, 68.

**Happy Birthday:** Expand your interests and circle of friends. Embrace something unique that will give you a different perspective on life and what you can do to accommodate those having trouble. The help you offer will ground you mentally and bring a wide variety of emotions to the surface. Contemplate what you can do and what you want, and personal growth and accolades will follow. Your numbers are 7, 15, 22, 34, 36, 38, 42.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Rethink your long-term plans. Put together a schedule that will encourage you to incorporate what you enjoy doing into how you earn your living. Consider where you excel and head in that direction. Take responsibility for your happiness. ✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Take charge and enforce the changes that make your life and job more manageable. Speak from the heart, address issues that concern others and lay out a strategy that everyone you talk to can support and contribute to. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Give a lot of thought to how you conduct business and keep things fair. Look for options that will attract the help you need from those in critical positions. Build a rapport with people who share your ambitions. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Adjust your schedule to allow you to lend someone a helping hand. The gratitude you receive will set you on a positive path for the remainder of the day. Share what you know and what you have with a loved one. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't mince words; be direct and follow through with your plan. Wade through your responsibilities with gusto, and you will make a difference. Reveal little about your finances, beliefs and opinions, and stick up for yourself. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An open mind can gather adequate information to secure success. Don't fear change; embrace what life offers, and learn from every experience you encounter. Love and romance are favored, and self-improvement will boost your confidence. Be true to yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take your time. Don't feel you must do what everyone else is doing. Look for possibilities; consider what's required to take the road less traveled. Work quietly on your own, and protect your health and finances. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll be intrigued by what others do or how they react. Make decisions based on your observations; you will discover the best way to use your attributes to get your way. A promise someone makes will give you hope. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Explore your options, and do the work yourself. Fix up your surroundings, and spend more time with someone who inspires you. The hard work you put in will ward off criticism. Believe in yourself. Verify all information before passing it along. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a simple approach when dealing with a friend, relative or peer. Listening and learning what others think and want will help you devise a plan that everyone favors. A positive change at home will ease stress. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Control your emotions, live up to your promises and lay down strict guidelines that help you reach your purpose. Fulfillment will help clear your head and encourage you to stop living in someone's shadow. Follow your heart and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Initiate a plan that saves money. Adjust your budget and lower your overhead. The comfort of financial freedom will help you find peace of mind and personal happiness. Rethink your goals and focus on love, romance and personal growth. ✪✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, dynamic and original. You are emotional and persuasive.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | | | 7 | | | 3 |
| | 7 | 1 | | | 6 | | 9 | |
| | | 6 | | 5 | | 8 | 1 | |
| 5 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | 8 | 2 |
| | 2 | 8 | | 7 | | 5 | | |
| | 4 | | 3 | | | 2 | 7 | |
| 1 | | | 2 | | | | | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**NAOMI JUDD (1944-2022)** Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | A | U | T | I | R | I | P | S | L | E | G | N | A |
| E | I | H | A | J | I | L | E | G | N | A | H | C | S | L |
| V | V | N | A | M | E | M | E | R | C | Y | D | H | D | B |
| O | E | R | R | H | G | U | A | L | M | N | L | A | D | U |
| L | D | U | B | O | R | N | I | U | R | E | I | S | U | M |
| A | I | L | E | E | F | E | S | E | Y | S | U | E | J | S |
| R | A | E | D | I | N | I | T | B | L | M | B | R | E | E |
| R | N | S | N | T | C | T | L | L | N | L | M | A | H | C |
| Y | A | E | A | S | U | U | E | A | Y | Ⓔ | E | A | T | A |
| R | S | U | T | B | E | B | I | R | C | Ⓕ | W | N | R | R |
| T | H | L | S | N | H | R | I | N | I | Ⓐ | R | N | E | G |
| N | L | B | U | V | B | C | I | L | L | Ⓒ | I | O | V | O |
| U | A | N | H | E | S | C | R | A | Z | Y | T | N | L | L |
| O | N | D | R | E | A | M | J | U | D | G | E | Y | I | D |
| C | D | S | N | O | I | S | S | E | S | H | O | W | S | E |

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Albums, Angels, Ashland, Ashley, Bells, Blue Nun, Blues, Born, Brian, Build, Butler, Cafe, California, Change, Chaser, Client, Country, Diana, Dream, Elijah, Ellen, Feel, Finest, Gold, Grace, Grammy, He's Crazy, Judge, Larry, Laugh, Live, Love, Lyrics, Mercy, Music, Name, Rain, Rules, Sessions, Shows, Silver, Spiritual, Stand, The Judds, Wife, Wynonna

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# Mets blow out Nationals again for 5th straight win

AP

The New York Mets celebrate after defeating the Washington Nationals 10-0 in a baseball game Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in New York.

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Mark Canha led off with the first of his four hits, Starling Marte followed with a homer against Patrick Corbin and the New York Mets rolled from there, totaling 17 hits in a 10-0 blowout of the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

The NL East-leading Mets have won a season-best five straight, all during this six-game homestand, which ends Wednesday against the Nats. They have at least 16 hits in consecutive games for the second time in a week.

Jeff McNeil had three hits, Eduardo Escobar homered, Francisco Lindor extended his RBI streak to nine games and every Mets starter had at least one knock as New York followed a 13-5 thrashing against Washington with another laugher.

Trevor Williams (1-3) pitched five shutout innings against a Nationals lineup missing Nelson Cruz, who sat out with a left ankle contusion. Williams got his first victory as a Met after being acquired last July.

Corbin (1-8) allowed seven runs and 12 hits, the last a screaming comebacker by Tomás Nido that knocked over the pitcher like Charlie Brown. Corbin appeared OK, but manager Dave Martinez promptly pulled him anyway. The left-hander completed 4 1/3 innings, and his ERA rose to 6.96. The Nats had six hits, three by Dee Strange-Gordon.

### Reds 2, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Luis Castillo struck out 10 while pitching six innings of one-hit ball, and Cincinnati got its first victory at Fenway Park since Game 7 of the 1975 World Series.

Joey Votto twice doubled off the top of the outfield wall — once to left, once to right and each perhaps an inch from a home run — and Cincinnati scored both runs on Boston throwing errors.

Rafael Devers had the only hit off Castillo (2-2), who walked three before leaving with a 1-0 lead after six.

Tony Santillan, the fourth Reds pitcher, entered a one-hit shutout in the ninth and gave up a single to Kiké Hernández and a double to Devers. After J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts were retired, Alex Verdugo hit a chopper that Votto couldn't handle at first, allowing one run to score on the single. Santillan then struck out Trevor Story to earn his fourth save.

### Yankees 9, Angels 1

In New York, Noah Syndergaard was rocked in his return to New York, giving up Matt Carpenter's two-run homer in a four-run first inning that propelled the Yankees over reeling Los Angeles.

Starting a high-profile three-game series against Shohei Ohtani, Mike Trout & Co., New York improved the American League's best record to 34-14 and sent the Angels (27-23) to their season-worst sixth straight loss. Jordan Montgomery (1-1) pitched four-hit ball for seven innings, allowing Luis Rengifo's seventh-inning homer on a hanging curveball.

Aaron Judge, the 6-foot-7 All-Star, helped out with his glove, jumping to get his glove above the 8-foot-5 center-field wall to deny Ohtani a possible home run in the first.

### Rangers 3, Rays 0

In Arlington, Texas, Martín Pérez retired all 16 batters after taking a 97 mph liner off his right leg, lowering his majors-leading ERA with seven scoreless innings in Texas' victory over Tampa Bay.

Corey Seager homered for Texas' first hit in the fourth inning, with Adolis García adding a two-run shot two batters later as the Rangers won for the first sixth time in seven games and reached .500 (24-24) for the first time this season.

Pérez (4-2) needed a few minutes to recover after Taylor Walls' scorching infield single in the second. The left-hander stayed in, got Vidal Bruján to fly out with two runners on and pitched five perfect innings from there. The 31-year-old Pérez extended the longest active streak in the majors without allowing a homer to 66 1/3 innings. He also dropped his ERA to 1.42, striking out five with no walks.

### Giants 7, Phillies 4, 11 innings

In Philaldelphia, Joc Pederson's two-run homer in the 11th inning helped power San Francisco past struggling Philadelphia.

Luis Gonzalez had a career-high four hits as San Francisco won its third straight overall and second consecutive extra-inning game.

A fielding error by Jeurys Familia allowed Wilmer Flores to score in the 10th to give San Francisco a 4-3 lead. Philadelphia tied it when Alec Bohm's two-out grounder up the middle hit the second base bag, bouncing over Thairo Estrada and allowing pinch-runner Roman Quinn to score. But the Giants scored three times in the 11th and sent the Phillies to their fifth straight loss.

### Cardinals 3, Padres 2, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and St. Louis beat San Diego.

Tommy Edman began the 10th as the Cardinals' automatic runner at second. After Paul Goldschmidt was intentionally walked by Taylor Rogers (0-2) and Nolan Arenado fouled out, Edman stole third. Pujols followed with his second sacrifice fly of the game, lifting a ball to left that easily scored Edman.

Drew VerHagen (3-0), the fourth St. Louis pitcher, started the 10th and benefitted from a perfect throw from left fielder Lars Nootbaar, who had entered the game in the seventh. Jurickson Profar singled to left with two outs and Nootbaar cut down pinch-runner Jose Azocar at home to end the inning.

### Twins 8, Tigers 2, 1st game
### Tigers 4, Twins 0, 2nd game

In Detroit, Jonathan Schoop homered and drove in four runs as Detroit, with Kody Clemens making his major league debut while his famous father watched from a suite, beat Minnesota to split a doubleheader.

Seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens saw his 26-year-old son go 0 for 3, striking out twice and drawing a walk. Flawless in the field at second base, Kody Clemens handled a grounder for the final out of the game.

Max Kepler had three hits and drove in three runs and Gary Sanchez hit a three-run homer to help the Twins win the first game.

In the second game, Schoop hit a two-run homer in the first inning and added a two-run single off second baseman Jorge Polanco's glove.

### Blue Jays 6, White Sox 5

In Toronto, Alejandro Kirk hit a pair of two-run homers and Toronto extended its winning streak to six with a victory over Chicago.

Kevin Gausman (5-3) pitched five innings to win his second straight start, getting five strikeouts while allowing three runs, six hits and one walk. The right-hander has won four of his past six outings. Jordan Romano got three outs for his AL-leading 16th save in 18 chances.

Both came off of White Sox right-hander Lucas Giolito (3-2), who allowed season-highs of six runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings and raised his ERA from 2.63 to 3.61.

### Mariners 10, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, George Kirby allowed four hits in six innings for his first big league win, and Taylor Trammell had three hits and four RBIs to help Seattle to a 10-0 rout of Baltimore.

Kirby (1-1) struck out eight and walked one in his fifth major league start. The rookie right-hander also went six scoreless innings in his debut May 8 against Tampa Bay, but he settled for a no-decision.

Reliever Bryan Baker (1-3) got the first four outs as essentially an opener for the Orioles, but he allowed an RBI double to Julio Rodríguez in the first. Zac Lowther came on with two on and one out in the second after being recalled from Triple-A Norfolk before the game. He allowed six runs — five earned — in 5 1/3 innings.

### Guardians 8, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Austin Hedges hit a three-run homer and rookie Oscar Gonzalez doubled in two runs, sending Cleveland past Kansas City.

Hedges' third-inning drive, which barely cleared the 19-foot wall in left, scored Ernie Clement and Oscar Mercado to extend Cleveland's lead to 6-2. The Guardians put 11 men on base in the first three frames against Daniel Lynch (2-4).

Gonzalez, who is 9 for 21 through five games in the majors, tacked on a two-run double in the sixth off Dylan Coleman. Cleveland has won three of four, including the first two in its three-game set with AL-worst Kansas City.

### Cubs 8, Brewers 7

In Chicago, Patrick Wisdom hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth inning, Willson Contreras and P.J. Higgins also went deep, and Chicago beat Milwaukee.

Wisdom unloaded on a 3-2 pitch from Brad Boxberger (1-1), sending a long drive to left for his 11th home run.

Contreras connected in his second straight game, smacking a solo drive in the first against Milwaukee starter Eric Lauer. Contreras now has eight homers to lead all MLB catchers, and also hit an RBI double and scored in a four-run sixth.

Christopher Morel continued a hot start to his career with a walk and a triple, setting a club record by reaching base in his first 14 major league games.

### Diamondbacks 8, Braves 7

In Phoenix, Cooper Hummel's game-winning double landed just fair down the right-field line in the 10th inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks kept rallying to beat Atlanta.

The Braves led 6-2 going into the bottom of the sixth but Arizona rallied with two runs in the sixth and another in the eighth. The D-backs tied the game in the ninth on Daulton Varsho's sacrifice fly off Kenley Jansen, who blew his third save in 15 chances.

Dansby Swanson started the Atlanta 10th as the automatic runner on second base and was driven home by Marcell Ozuna.

But Arizona had one more rally left. David Peralta's one-out single scored Jake McCarthy to tie it at 7. Hummel was hitless in four at-bats prior to his hit.

### Pirates 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Michael Chavis and Tucupita Marcano each hit two-run homers and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat Los Angeles to take their second straight series from the NL West-leading Dodgers.

The Pirates won four of five games against the Dodgers in May and conclude their visit on Wednesday. They rapped out 11 hits in their first series win at Dodger Stadium since 2016.

Mitch Keller (2-5) allowed two runs and two hits in five innings, ending a five-game skid as a starter. Wil Crowe retired the side in the ninth to earn his second save.

Julio Urías (3-5) took the loss.

### Astros 3, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Chas McCormick hit a tiebreaking home run off Frankie Montas leading off the eighth inning and the Houston Astros got a scoreless effort from their bullpen to beat Oakland.

The A's have lost 12 of 17 to fall 12 games under .500 for the first time since finishing the 2017 season at 75-87.

Five Houston relievers combined for five scoreless innings of four-hit ball after starter Cristian Javier departed after throwing 85 pitches in four innings.

Phil Maton, Ryne Stanek, Rafael Montero (3-0) and Héctor Neris retired three batters each. Ryan Pressly pitched the ninth for his ninth save.

Montas (2-5) but remained winless since April 18.

# Andrew Wiggins shines on playoff stage for Warriors

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Andrew Wiggins hoisted his daughter Amyah into his arms and beamed as the Warriors were crowned Western Conference champions.

Stephen Curry and Draymond Green each had hardware in their hands or they most certainly would have lifted Wiggins into the air to celebrate all he has meant to Golden State's latest postseason run.

He defended Luka Doncic full-court. He drove and dunked on Doncic with an emphatic in-your-face one-handed slam. He is knocking down big shots and securing rebounds at the right times.

"Just living in the moment, just taking it all in, winning," Wiggins said Monday. "... Just winning with this team, with these guys has been the most important thing."

From the moment Wiggins began hearing rumblings of a possible trade to the Warriors from Minnesota ahead of the deadline in February 2020, he allowed himself to imagine the possibility of winning it all with Curry, Green and Klay Thompson. He pictured playing for coach Steve Kerr.

Now, he's about to be on the NBA Finals stage with a chance to do it.

Game 1 against the Boston Celtics is Thursday night at Chase Center, where Golden State is 9-0 this postseason and Wiggins again will be tasked with a tough defensive matchup, this time to slow down Jayson Tatum.

"I love playing defense, I think I'm good at it," Wiggins said. "I love taking on the challenge."

For all those months after being traded when Wiggins faced questions about how he would fit with the Warriors, he has shown he is right where he belongs — and in the finals for the first time in his eight-year career.

The Warriors were in need of an athletic wing and found that player in the 6-foot-7 Wiggins, who once he arrived no longer had to be the face of a franchise or carry that weight on his shoulders as he did with the Timberwolves.

"From the time the trade happened to now, this was the vision of him playing a very, very important role and having the opportunity to do it under the brightest lights and biggest stages like the playoff run like we've had and now the finals," Curry said. "Excited to see that continue."

Wiggins has been more than even Kerr imagined given his playmaking ability on both ends. For a team that routinely shoots 3-pointers, Wiggins has been one of the most reliable for Golden State inside the arc.

With his 51.9% (14 for 27) mark this postseason, he is one of four players — and the only one still competing — who has shot better than 50% on at least 25 mid-range attempts.

When Golden State needed continuity with Curry, Green and Thompson all sidelined for long stretches this season because of injuries, "Wiggins was a constant, he was here all year," owner Joe Lacob said of the 27-year-old Toronto native.

Once he joined the Warriors in 2020, Wiggins only played 12 games before the NBA season shut down because of the pandemic. Kerr saw plenty in that small sample size and believed Wiggins would shine in the Bay Area.

"I think all of last year really gave him a better chance to get a feel offensively and start to really fit in to our off-ball movement," Kerr said. "I think he's taken a leap in this postseason with his rebounding and his defense and I think continuity is so important in this league that you can't just throw people together and expect it to work. The previous year and (12) games two years ago and then this season, it's all led to this point. Wiggs has just been a perfect fit and we wouldn't be here without him, that's for sure."

Yet Wiggins briefly became a distraction before the season started when he said he would stick to his beliefs and not get vaccinated against COVID-19. He eventually opted to receive the vaccine, having faced the possibility of not being allowed into home games when the San Francisco Department of Public Health began requiring proof of vaccination for large indoor events.

That's a distant memory now given how Wiggins has performed.

Curry has only seen Wiggins' swagger grow as the stakes increase. This group has come a long way since its league-worst 15-50 showing during the pandemic-shortened 2019-20 season right after Wiggins arrived.

"It's a beautiful story," Wiggins said. "A lot of ups and downs."

It was his daughter who woke him from a nap in January to share the great news he was a first-time All-Star, and selected as a starter, too.

He's not satisfied just yet.

"I'm thankful," Wiggins said, "we still got more work to do."

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins shoots during NBA basketball practice in San Francisco, Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

# Ime's way: Celtics' Finals run a product of coach's vision

**BOSTON** (AP)—The Boston Celtics' transition from a team that went from sitting just outside the top tier of the Eastern Conference to being four wins away from the franchise's 18th championship began the moment Ime Udoka grasped the microphone at his introductory news conference last June.

Flanked by the Celtics' co-owners and new president of basketball operations Brad Stevens, the first-time coach was asked what kind of stamp he hoped to put on his new team.

A smile on his face, Udoka didn't hesitate to point out a shortcoming of his predecessor and new boss.

"We want to have a well-rounded team. I looked at the numbers overall, sorry to mention this Brad, but 27th in assists last year — we want to have more team basketball there," Udoka said.

A year later, his pledge to build a culture on sharing the ball, accountability and gritty defense is no longer just an aspiration.

It's the foundation of a team that's back in the NBA Finals for the first time since 2010 and has Udoka on the cusp of becoming just the 10th coach to win a title in his first season.

Tyronn Lue (2016 Cleveland Cavaliers) is on that list, while Hall of Famer Bill Russell just missed it, winning the first of back-to-back titles his second season as a player-coach with Boston in 1968.

Like Udoka, who is of Nigerian descent, they are both Black coaches who carved their places in a league in which coaches of color have often had to wait for opportunities on the sideline.

That is even more underlined in a city like Boston with its complicated racial history, where Udoka can also join Russell, Doc Rivers (2008) and K.C. Jones (1984, 1986) as Black coaches to raise the Larry O'Brien Trophy.

It took a while for Udoka's first team to buy in after typical challenges like injuries were complicated more by unexpected absences due to COVID-19. It added up to a team that was nowhere close to playoff bound following a buzzer-beating loss to the New York Knicks on Jan. 6, dropping the Celtics to an 18-21 record and 11th place in the Eastern Conference.

But following a 33-10 run to close the regular season, and wins over the Brooklyn Nets, defending champion Milwaukee Bucks and top-seeded Miami Heat in the first three rounds of the playoffs, here the Celtics are clearly a team built in Udoka's image and driven by his leadership.

"He's taught us things that we could learn and we taught him things," point guard Marcus Smart said. "We knew that him being his first time, it wasn't going to be easy. It was going to be hard. That's just how it is, and that's just the team we are, and that's the mentality we picked up from him. ... When you've got a coach like that, it's kind of hard not to follow."

Udoka has benefited from what he heard from core players like Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Smart and even veteran Al Horford, who early on expressed a desire to be pushed and called out if necessary.

It happened on multiple occasions. After a Nov. 1 home loss to Chicago in which Boston surrendered a 19-point lead — one of several big leads the Celtics blew in the first half of the season — Smart, the team's longest-tenured player, called out Tatum and Brown for their unwillingness to pass the ball at times.

The comments prompted a players-only meeting soon after that loss, but Udoka also backed up Smart's comments days later.

It led to uncomfortable conversations in the locker room, but Udoka said it was also one of the moments that ultimately fueled their turnaround.

"I challenged their mental toughness. Some people liked it, some people didn't," he said. "The team responded as they have all year. And we really said let's stop messing around and giving up these leads because we had lost two or three 19-point leads and lost some games to Cleveland, Milwaukee on Christmas and Chicago earlier and then that New York game. … I got tired of it. The team got tired of it."

From then on, players-only meetings weren't reserved just for low points but have been pushed by the coaching staff to create a more open dialogue.

Udoka has also benefited from a first-time executive in Stevens who made necessary roster changes, while resisting others.

He notably changed up the roster at the trade deadline, dealing seven players, including guards Dennis Schröder, Josh Richardson and big man Enes Freedom, along with a 2022 first-round pick, and netting the Celtics guard Derrick White and center Daniel Theis.

It underscored a proclamation Udoka made when he took the job. That the point guard duties would be in the hands of Smart, who had waited patiently for his chance to be the definitive starter since his rookie season in 2014-15. Along the way the Celtics brought in All-Stars like Kyrie Irving and Kemba Walker. It turns out, Smart was the point guard they always needed.

That decision was validated by Smart being named the league's defensive player of the year this season.

As the Celtics prepare to return to the Finals, Udoka is adamant that this group hasn't reached its peak.

Moments before he addressed the team in the locker room after clinching the conference title, he noticed the players grinning and all clutching water bottles.

# CNMI National Baseball Team truly 'Marianas Strong'

The CNMI National Baseball Team is the epitome of "Marianas Strong" as it rises to the challenge of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 even after the sport had to go through calamities and even a pandemic the past couple of years.

"From super typhoons Soudelor to Yutu, and with the damages on the field, we haven't had any season in about three years now," said CNMI Baseball National Team head coach Derron Flores.

With the field damaged, and the COVID-19 pandemic reaching the islands in 2020, the Saipan Baseball League had no choice but suspend its regular seasons for nearly three years.

But with the help of a new board member, the national federation was able to conduct a Mini Games tryouts last year, and have since then, narrowed down what was once a 36-man pool to 20.

The CNNI National Baseball Team is now diligently practicing five days a week and is peaking at the right time as the Mini Games draws closer.

Flores said the morale of the team is great and the team has a chance to medal. The 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia was the last time baseball was featured in the Pacific Games and the CNMI won gold during those Games.

"We are not going to take any team lightly, we are gonna come in, and we are gonna play heads-up CNMI baseball, [but] we are not gonna come in with our heads up high, but we are gonna come in game-ready," he said.

When asked about the strength of the team, Flores said the team is well balanced, with experienced players in pitching and hitting, and a good defense. "We have a powerful 454 engine, us coaches just have to steer it in the right direction."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Head coach Derron Flores said the CNMI Baseball National Team is the epitome of "Marianas Strong" after the sport overcame the damage brought by super typhoons Soudelor to Yutu and COVID-19 the past couple of years.

When asked about the advantage of playing on home soil, Flores noted that it is the support of fans and very importantly the support of family and friends that will definitely give them an edge.

Flores also recognized his wife and all the players and coaches' wives "We'd like to thank them as well for hanging in there, sticking in there, day in and day out…grinding to get us ready for these Games. It means a lot to us and [this] can't happen without their support as well."

For national player Shane Yamada, his biggest inspiration for playing baseball is his family. He said with his father and uncles also baseball players, he was brought up knowing the sport and at a young age also began going out to the baseball field.

Yamada mentioned that his family is very important to him and when he is not playing baseball, he tries to spend as much time with them.

Josh Jones told *Saipan Tribune* that when he was younger he would look up to members of his own family who play the sport and represented the CNMI in the past.

He added that since the home crowd will be watching them live, it helps boost their confidence and drive them to work harder to make everyone proud.

"I feel like we're game-ready, we're ready to go, if the tournament's in a couple of days, we're ready, you know. One thing good about us is we have each other's back, we play as a team, our chemistry is way up there, more than anything else… so yeah we're ready."

Flores extended his thanks to SBL president Jay Santos and the rest of the SBL board for all their hard work. He also sent kudos to the Mini Games Organizing Committee led by chair Marco Peter and CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta for making the Mini Games happen. Ditto to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration for green-lighting the quadrennial event and all the sponsors who donated cash and in-kind contributions.

"I encourage all the fans out there and supporters of our island [and] from our neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota to come out and enjoy the Mini Games," he added. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

## FIBA

*From Page 24*

experience.

He added that the Won sisters are late additions to the team and recently came back from off-island. E'Ann plays college basketball, while Ky'Sonne suits up for her high school team.

The men's head coach is Joseph "Joe" Diaz and he's being assisted by Keith Nabors.

For the women, Catherine Attao-Toves serves as head head coach with David Apatang and Vinalyn Simram her coaching lieutenants.

Ethan Kwon is the team manager of both the men's and women's national teams.

Lee said he's confident that the men's and women's nationals will make their home islands proud in the four-day tournament set to start on June 8.

"I know we'll be a competitive team at the Micro Cup. As for winning and medaling, it will all come down to trusting each other and how much they want it. They may lack the experience, however, we have a very young talented roster and a group of passionate athletes and coaches that we are sending and so I have all the confidence in them that they will represent the NMI well."

Diaz said one thing's for sure is that the men's nationals won't back down against anyone.

"All I can say is we have a bunch of players that have been grinding off and on the court. So all I can say is we're going to be competitive."

Asked what the team's goal is in the FIBA Micro Cup, the G-Rollers founder said it's to be No. 1.

"We are all going out to get that gold medal and represent our Commonwealth. Our strength is our team. We play together as one Team CNMI," he said.

Aside from defense, Diaz said the men's nationals' strength is their speed and shooting.

"I just don't like to talk but I like to show that for one year we have been working on this. I want to show action on what we learned from the Friendlies UOG Basketball Tournament," he said.

Like Diaz, Attao-Toves said the women's nationals' goal is to win the gold medal.

"Winning the gold is the overall goal! My expectation for our team is to truly represent the NMI to the very best of our ability—carrying the #MarianasStrong mentality. We are prepared to give it our all and will go all in!"

She said her squad is very much a "team" in all aspects of the word.

"We have worked on many different strategies so we would be ready for whatever style we are faced with. Our team is very diverse in age and experience. With this diversity, I am grateful that these ladies trust our (coach Dave Apatang Jr. and myself) guidance and direction," said Attao-Toves.

Gold medal or not, the NMBF said it's just happy that CNMI Basketball is back on the map and moving forward with its national team program as it prepares to be relevant again in the region.

"One thing for sure though is that after this FIBA Micro Cup, we'll have a pool of veterans to build on the national program in preparation for the following year's competitions (Micronesian Games and hopefully the Pacific Games)," said Lee.

Aside from host Guam and the CNMI, the other two teams seeing action in the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup are Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Kiribati and the Marshall Islands were supposed to go but later withdrew. Nauru was the other team invited to take part in the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

Originally, the 2022 Micronesian Games set for the Marshall Islands was to serve as the qualifier, but since it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to later in 2023, FIBA Oceania had to organize an alternative qualifier hence the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

With just four teams in the mix, FIBA Micronesian Cup has adopted a three round-robin format followed by single round finals to determine the champion team and medalists.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 34 | 15 | .694 | _ |
| Toronto | 28 | 20 | .583 | 5½ |
| Tampa Bay | 28 | 21 | .571 | 6 |
| Boston | 23 | 27 | .460 | 11½ |
| Baltimore | 21 | 30 | .412 | 14 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 30 | 21 | .588 | _ |
| Chicago | 23 | 24 | .489 | 5 |
| Cleveland | 21 | 24 | .467 | 6 |
| Detroit | 19 | 30 | .388 | 10 |
| Kansas City | 16 | 32 | .333 | 12½ |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 32 | 18 | .640 | _ |
| Los Angeles | 27 | 23 | .540 | 5 |
| Texas | 24 | 24 | .500 | 7 |
| Seattle | 21 | 28 | .429 | 10½ |
| Oakland | 20 | 32 | .385 | 13 |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 34 | 17 | .667 | _ |
| Atlanta | 23 | 27 | .460 | 10½ |
| Philadelphia | 21 | 29 | .420 | 12½ |
| Miami | 19 | 27 | .413 | 12½ |
| Washington | 18 | 33 | .353 | 16 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milwaukee | 32 | 19 | .627 | _ |
| St. Louis | 28 | 21 | .571 | 3 |
| Pittsburgh | 21 | 27 | .438 | 9½ |
| Chicago | 20 | 29 | .408 | 11 |
| Cincinnati | 17 | 31 | .354 | 13½ |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 33 | 16 | .673 | _ |
| San Diego | 30 | 19 | .612 | 3 |
| San Francisco | 27 | 21 | .563 | 5½ |
| Arizona | 25 | 26 | .490 | 9 |
| Colorado | 22 | 26 | .458 | 10½ |

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play against the winner of the match between Guam's Allan Zhen and the NMI's Jordan Pangilinan.

Moreover, Tahiti's No. 3/4 seed Quentin Bernaix will be hoping to avenge his defeat in the bronze medal plXayoff in Samoa where he lost out to his compatriot, Louis Beaubouis, who is not competing at this year's Games.

### Women's singles cast

Johanna Kou of New Caledonia is one of the most decorated badminton players in the Pacific Games, having already collected six gold, four silver and two bronze medals at previous editions (2003, 2007, 2011 and 2019). She remains on track to extend her medal haul this year, as she enters the women's singles draw as top seed. Receiving a bye into the second round, she will open her campaign against Betty Resture of Tuvalu or Jennica Silva of Guam.

Meanwhile, Tahiti's Mélissa Mi You and Jenica Lesourd also received byed into the second round, as second and 3/4 seeds respectively. Both players have enjoyed international action over the last year as they represented Tahiti at the TotalEnergies BWF Uber Cup Finals and Sudirman Cup Finals towards the end of 2021. ***(PR)***

## CORRY

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Joeten Motors for serving as his sponsors throughout the MRA season.

"And I'd like to thank my family and friends for their constant support," he added.

In the Big Boy ATV Class, Christian "Hollywood" Camacho was blockbuster again by topping the division for the nth time with 50 points. Rex Susulin and Henry Camacho Sr. came in second and third with 42 points apiece. The former, however, edged the latter after nosing him out in the second heat.

Kassidy Camacho took the pole position in the Mini ATV Class with 47 points, followed by Theresa Borja who also had 47 points but came second in Heat No. 2. Anella Igitol was third with 40 points.

In the Peewee ATV Class, Keoni Resorio was first, Rockson Cabrera second, and Brooklynn Susulin third with 50 points, 47 points, and 38 points, respectively.

The results of the Veterans, Novice, and Expert classes will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

PONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Corry Pangelinan in action during the May edition of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Mets blow out Nationals again for 5th straight win

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Sports

CNMI National Baseball Team truly 'Marianas Strong'

PAGE 23

# FIBA Micro Cup rosters finalized

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI Men's National Basketball Team, left, and the CNMI Women's National Basketball Team pose for team photos after their regular practice at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has finalized its rosters for the 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup set to begin next week in Guam.

Making it to the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team are Donovan Brennan, Eli Aughenbaugh, Chioni Dela Cruz, Greg Sablan, Leo Naraja, Shane Deleon Guerrero, Lucio Aldan, Frankie Satur, Jeff Castro, Sir Lashu Dela Cruz, and captain Coby Santos

The CNMI Women's National Basketball Team, meanwhile, is made up of Marlene Lumabi, Michelle and Richelle Kautz, Kaia Travilla, Azriel Fatialofa, Fiona Bucalig, Angellyn Roligat, Destiny Pangilinan, Gabrielle Race, E'Anna and Ky'Sonne Won, and captain Madeleine Alegre.

NMIBF president James Lee said Santos and Alegre were named skippers of each team because both had previous Micronesian Games

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## Corry carries torch anew in Intermediate Class

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Corry Pangelinan continued his hot streak in the Intermediate Class after winning the division anew in the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 17-year-old Marianas High School student was again perfection in winning the division of Marianas Racing Association's May race after topping both heats with 50 points.

Tristan Sablan came in second with 40 points, while Melvin Cepeda was third with 38 points.

"I wished nothing but the best for all racers! Everyone out on the track did amazing and so did my team! Also I was trying my best not to crash," said Pangelinan when asked about his thoughts on Sunday's race.

He also commended MRA for maintaining the track that resulted in improved racing conditions for the May competition.

"Track and race conditions were better than before because MRA had watered the track before and in between races so it wasn't that dusty it made the races more enjoyable to watch. The weather was great as it was sunny all day but it was a little hot," he added.

Pangelinan also thanked Team ERICCO, Pokka, YCO True Value, Marianas Natives, Herman's Bakery and

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## 53 players in badminton individual event

Fifty-three players from seven member association countries will be competing in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games' individual event, which takes place from June 23 to 25 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

While Tuvalu is not competing in the mixed team event, it will be represented in a Pacific Games' competition—although the 'mini' version—for the first time since 2011 in the individual tournament. Tuvalu will have Maeli Ioane and Betty Resture, while Wallis & Futuna will also be making its debut appearance in a Pacific Games tournament.

### Men's singles players

Tahiti's Rémi Rossi swept the board at the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games, taking the gold medal in all three individual disciplines. Having resided in France for the past two and a half years to obtain his teaching qualification and train with the French national team, he returned to Oceania earlier this year to compete in the Continental Championships in April, where he bowed out in the Last 16. In this year's Mini Games, he receives a bye into the second round where he will compete against the winner of the Maeli Ioane (Tuvalu) and Damien Coffin (Wallis and Futuna) contest.

The 2019 gold medal final has the potential for a repeat as the silver medalist from New Caledonia—Yohan De Geoffrey—enters the competition as second seed on the opposite end of the draw. De Geoffrey is also receiving a bye into the second round and will

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THERESE RIVERS

Johanna Kou of New Caledonia in action during the 2019 Pacific Mini Games in Apia, Samoa. She is the No. 1 seed in the women's singles play in the badminton competition in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.